

Brighton Museum & Art gallery | 20 July 2017 to 3 June 2018

Hand embroidered sampler, 2017



MUSEUM OF TRANSOLOGY

We are proud to present *Museum of Transology*.

This exhibition is part of *Be Bold*, a programme created and developed together with our LGBTQ communities. *Be Bold* reflects the ways they would like to work with Royal Pavilion & Museums, bringing their voices, experiences and histories into the museum in their own words.

Museum of Transology is curated by E-J Scott. It will take you on a journey with trans community individuals who share their honest, unedited experiences.

The display deals with themes of the body, gender and identity. Please be aware that some objects are of a sensitive nature. Visitors may have a personal response which connects to their own experience and lives; there are links for support and contact groups for issues raised within the display, and this can be found in the gallery folders.

Parents and carers are responsible for supervising children's visit to this exhibition.



The UK's trans communities are increasingly vibrant, visible and confident about sharing our stories. Trans people are coming out, finding each other and organising Pride events, and Brighton & Hove continues to pave the way in the fight for trans acceptance and equality. Trans people's gender identities are self-defined. Expressing our gender identities can be challenging because we experience transphobia in the form of hate crime, violence, discrimination and bigotry.

Sadly, no matter how bold and brave we are, we cannot change the fact that trans lives have traditionally been missing in museums, because they have often been hidden, ignored, misunderstood, forgotten and, in many cases, lost. This makes it difficult to tell trans stories of the past with confidence and accuracy.

The Museum of Transology is dedicated to giving a voice to the reality of trans lives and halting the erasure of transcestry. The collection is as diverse as the trans experience itself, yet shares themes of hope, despair, ambition, confidence and desire. It began by gathering objects and stories from the local trans community at the trans-friendly Marlborough Pub & Theatre. It now includes more than 150 items from around the UK and aims to keep growing to include trans lives from around the world.

The Museum of Transology needs a permanent home in a UK museum, where it can be preserved for future generations.

GENDER IDENTITY

This is personal, internal and cultural, and not necessarily visible to others

TRANS

An umbrella term used to indicate a wide variety of people whose gender identities are not aligned with their biological sex

QTIPOC

Queer, trans and intersex person/people of colour

INTERSEX

Someone born with sexual anatomy that does not fit typical medical definitions of female or male

NON-BINARY

To be on the gender spectrum and not bound by the constructs of male or female

GENDERQUEER

To 'queer' gender, often by taking a visual and political stance against gender conformity

CISGENDERED

Non trans people whose gender identity happens to align with their biological sex

TRANSOLOGY

The practice of collecting trans objects and narratives

TRANCESTORY

Evidence of trans lives lived before us

THEIRSTORY

The study of past events beyond the cisgender binary

TRANS EMBODIMENT

Celebrating trans people's abilities to fully appreciate and inhabit their bodies. For some this can be beyond a female/male binary

TRANSITION

The social and/or physical journey some take to enact a gender identity different from the one assigned at birth

CIS-GAZE

The way trans people are seen as objects of titillation or fascination

JUST BE YOU

From crinolines to corsets, throughout dress history people of all genders have gone to great lengths to shape their body to create a fashionable silhouette. From bras to boxers and binders to boobs, all kinds of inventive non-surgical solutions are also used to shape the trans silhouette.

For some trans people, the use of hormones and surgical procedures remains critical to their wellbeing. Navigating the pathway to treatment can be complex and fraught with emotional anxiety. *The Transgender Equality Inquiry 2016* stated that 'the NHS is letting down trans people: it is failing in its legal duty under the Equality Act'.

Other trans people choose not have any surgical or medical intervention, and some create bodies that stretch beyond the binary divide between female and male.

Bathroom

Personal and intimate items used to shape the body and complete a beauty regime

Seven inch packer

'When I wore this it just made my dysphoria come out more. I hated it.'

Max Factor lipstick

'This lipstick, although not my first, was the first colour I ever got. I was looking for a 'melt in the background' look and this colour did it for me.'

No 7 lipstick

Silent Movie red lipstick

'This lipstick was from my wonderful sister who was the first family member to accept and support my transition.'

Female strapping

'Body tape to create the right curves.'

Lynx deodorant

'This was the first 'boy' product I bought. It was for a drag king night, and it was such a life-changing event, it felt so good dressing as a boy and broke down some invisible barrier.'

Prosthetic breasts

'What Mother Nature didn't give me.'

Pack and pee

'Homemade pack and pee! Soft packer with 'she-wee': great idea in theory but impractical due to stiff plastic.'

Prosthetic breasts and packing pants

'Big pair of tucking pants and a pair of boobs (rarely worn!).'

Strapping tape used for chest binding

'I found that my binder didn't make me flat at all and instead just gave me a 'boob shelf', so I started using duct tape to separate out my breasts and kind of hid them under my arms. I was trying to be stealth at the time which did not work at all pre-hormones. My breasts gave me so much dysphoria I was doing anything to flatten them. Eventually one time when I took my tape off I also took off a layer of skin. Then I moved to using the sports tape here as it is made for humans.'

Wax strips

'Veet ready to use hair removal wax strips.'

Eyelashes curlers

'Battery powered eyelash curlers for hot curls!'

Concealer

'This was the first piece of makeup I bought: it all comes back to this. I learnt about it from YouTube and still use it today. I finally built up the confidence to go into a shop and buy makeup without feeling judged, and now that I've started I've not looked back once.'

Polka dot packing sock

'The first sock I packed with. I think it's great because its vivid colour carries my flamboyant non-binary identity to my underwear!'

Jay's weave

'I was born with undescended testicles and had to go to three different hospitals before determining my gender. It was only at the age of 12 that I had fully developed genitals. I came out to my mum and I was not accepted. My family disowned me. I lost everything, but no matter what I had to move on with my transition. I felt that I would not pass with short hair so I went for full head weave extensions. These extensions marked the beginning of my journey of self-acceptance and love.'

Victoria's Secret 'shaping inserts'

'I used these 'chicken fillets' before I started hormones. It was a convenient way of shapeshifting quickly when I needed to!'

[hotpencil] press collection

Knitted moorhen packer c2003-2006

'Started off plumper but got squished with use!'

Serge photo

Photo of monster bodycast
Photographer Sara Davidmann
Plaster bodycast held against body.

The 'Worn Out' collection

Prosthetic breasts

These Amoena breast forms purchased c1992 replaced my home-produced bra stuffers. The weight, feel and jiggle of these gave me a heady experience I would imagine on par with the experience some trans men experience when packing the first few times. The life expectancy of these Amoena forms is approximately two to three years, so my 25 years usage attests to their excellence. The replacements cost about the same today and are equally pleasing.

Prosthetic penis

I wore this and slept with this every day for more than ten years.



Expressing identity through dress; significant items from the trans community

Born Risky dress and boots

'I wore this Vivienne Westwood *Anglomania* dress on Grayson Perry's *Born Risky* series to challenge my own perpetuation of binary masculinity.'

Black dress Travis

'...this wasn't the first dress I ever wore but it was the first dress that I put on and thought.... "oh my god, I look good. I look like, me". I truly felt, if possible, like my gender.'

Gold handbag

'This is my first good bag it went with me on every night for over 2 years. It did not hear the abuse in the streets; it did not see the attack. It just felt my joy as I danced and lived for the first time.'

Navy blue floral dress

'This dress was bought online before I got a name change and the store asked me if it was a gift for someone and I said yes. When I got it, it said: 'Dear Owl, because you're worth it. Yours always, Valur''

Floral bra

'My uniform for spreading the potent love; part of being a female tranny warrior, giving the message of embracing love for every gender and spreading acceptance. A celebration of sensuality & the inner beauty of the self + female form. Created for 'PSYCHEDELIC QUEERS''.

Homemade fancy dress

'Dress and top for fancy dress party, first time out in public as a woman.'

RAF cap

'This is the SD* hat I wore in training. It has two reasons for being significant. It is the hat I traded in for a white one, when I became RAF Police. And it is a boy's cap. Obviously I have no need for a boy's cap anymore (but I actually prefer the look of them over the girls). The RAF has been amazing to me as a trans person. I wouldn't trade my time in for anything (even if I did join in a misguided attempt to be masculine).'

*Service dress

RAF newspaper article

Portrait of Munroe Bergdorf at Sutton House by Sarah Moore

'...All of the portraits were of Munroe in and around a National Trust Tudor house in Hackney. We were proud to feature a trans woman of colour captured by a non-binary hard femme as the face of our year-long 'Sutton House Queered' programme of exhibitions and events.'

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'Pre & Post' Sian's Collection Cabinet

Sanitary towel

'Became a part of the fabric of my transition post op, while I was healing.'

Lipstick

'This was my first lipstick. It took me ages to find the right colour. I now have boxes of makeup and am still addicted.'

Pants

'These are from my first set of underwear (unworn!). I was so happy to be able to wear normal undies.'

Photos x 2

'These are my pre and post transition pics. I am so pleased when I see how far I have come. I can now look back fondly on old pics.'

Hormones

'After two years waiting for any hormones I eventually got prescribed oestrogen – Sandrena 2mg. Happy Days.'





Bras

Bikini top

'Bikini top 44B cup. No more beach rage! No glaring at men and their lack of triangle tan lines. Now I hit the beach in shorts, scars and a smile.'

Black and white striped strapless bra

'I was given the bra by someone who is a trans ally and simply outgrew it. It made me feel slightly embarrassed, but also thankful that they were thinking of me. It did do something to remind me that I had something up front although at the time there wasn't too much.'

White sports bra

'My first bra: not the prettiest of items of clothing but very practical. At the time, three years ago, it was not a necessity for support but helped me to feel the person I knew I was. Having fought against those 'just a phase' comments for so long, it was such a relief when I could dress and behave as the person I knew inside and was now prepared to be in the outside world. I am me and could not be happier.'

White lace bra

'My first bra bought for me by my then partner.'

Black velvet bra

'Post outer life transition (in 2007 at age 48) to androgyne/ genderqueer/transintersexual.'

White padded bra

'When I first transitioned I felt I needed a bra to pass, but now it don't matter at all. There are flat chested women and gender should not be defined by our external appearance.'

Sports bra signed by Genesis P-Orridge

'Hello Genesis Breyer P- Orridge, Please could you sign my bra, in support of my journey beyond the binary... Jean Devalive (signed during a Psychic TV gig).'

Boxers

Black velvet pants

'These are the only feminine undies I have retained.'

Pants

'I bought these from Doreen Fashions in Leyton, East London, a cross-dressing shop. It is now closed as a physical shop. I wore these underneath my swimming costume because the material is polyester. Jeanne D.'

Black packer holder jock strap

'I don't need this anymore!'

Black boxers with zip

'These shorts I bought online: they have a zip on the front for a secret pouch. My packer fits inside and can't fall out! I love these!'

Purple and black striped boxers

'At the start of my transition I asked my mum for boxers. And she came back with these! As lovely as she is, I couldn't wait to pluck up the courage to buy something less tragic!'

Lucky shark boxers

'Shark pants! My 'lucky' pants, given as a gift by an ex-girlfriend. These have followed me through coming out as genderqueer, social and then physical transition.'

Control pants

'Lycra pants are rather useful to conceal that which I always preferred not to be there. As money has always been difficult, you may see there is lots of evidence of rudimentary repair attempts. They were rather warm in the summer months!'

Ripped and taped denim shorts

'Worn by a Trans Pride volunteer who split them whilst working. They were so busy they could not go home and change, and so taped these shorts up so that they could keep helping out.'



Binders

Black binder with alterations

'I got my first Underworks binder from a friend, but it would always roll up over my hips – it was built for a cis man, not someone of my shape. I lost patience with it and put my corsetry skills to their best use yet crafting some black power-net into something my hips could fit into but still did the job.'

Grey binder

'This was my first binder, I quickly grew out of it and bought more, but when I grew out of those, I couldn't afford a new one so used parts of this one to make them bigger.'

Underworks binder

'This is my first binder. I got it when I first came out as trans, very shortly after reading XXX. The first time I wore this, I finally saw myself in the mirror the way I see myself in my head.'



White short binder

'I had my surgery and didn't have to use this. I was going to give it to someone who can't afford a new one, but I think it's important it's in the Museum of Transology because so many trans guys go through having to wear these.'

Black very worn binder

'It took me years and years to sort out chest surgery because I was self-employed in really precarious employment having lost my career when I started transitioning. I couldn't just take time off work when a date came up and then have weeks off to recover. This binder hurt so much, but I wore it all day, every day. I was so scared of people touching me on the shoulder in case they could feel it underneath. This thing didn't just crush me, it crushed my soul.'

Long white binder

'I couldn't wear this because the tightness emphasised my waist and hips. I was upset because it cost me a lot and I was unemployed because I lost my job when I needed time off after surgery.'

First ever black binder

'My first ever binder from January 2016. Ten months on and I have come a long way. I have a new binder and feel a lot more confident; I'm excited to see what the next ten months will bring.'

Black long vest style binder

'When I received my first binder, I cried. I could finally start the long journey to being who I want to be. It makes it more difficult for me to breathe and there's times where it does nothing to silence my dysphoria; but I've never loved a clothing article more. Its funny how something so restrictive can make you feel so free. Ryun Kidd, 17, NB'

White long binder

'This object was my first binder, which was bought in secret but was just after my 22nd birthday. Although my first binder, it was the moment it truly showed me who I am. And what identifies me.'

'THEY' IS MY WAY

The diverse array of objects in the Museum of Transology reflects the wide range of people who exist under the 'trans umbrella', including intersex and/or non-binary people. The United Nations estimates that between 0.05 and 1.7% of people are born intersex, but they are mostly invisible in our society. Intersex people are often subjected to nonconsensual 'corrective' surgical procedures as children.

A growing number of intersex and non-binary trans people are adopting the pronoun 'they' as a way of being referred to in a non-gendered way. In 2015, the American Dialect Association declared the singular pronoun 'they' as their word of the year.

There are a growing number of countries that recognise more than two genders, including Germany, India and Australia, but not the UK.

T-Shirts

White cotton vest

'I was excited to comfortably begin to wear a vest, but strangely I haven't felt the need to wear one yet! I just throw on a shirt, t-shirt or jumper, and enjoy the easy comfortable feeling of being unconfined.'

White t-shirt

'I was given this t-shirt by one of the young trans people whom I support. It's a direct quote of my response to their lamenting the possibility of their hypothetical memorial likeness being mispronounced.'

Nice Gender t-shirt

'Each year there's an alternative queer pride picnic that is held for people who feel that the mainstream Gay Pride is a corporate sell-out and unrepresentative of their identities. It's very crafty, alternative and mostly QTPOC (queer, transgender and intersex people of colour) run. Some young genderqueer creative activists were selling these hand-printed t-shirts. I love it so much that I hate it when it has to be washed.'

Transformers t-shirt

'Transformers youth group was founded in 2011. It's a safe space for young trans and gender questioning people. We stopped using these t-shirts after we saw the #Blacklivesmatter hashtag. Signed by young trans service users.'

Stand by Your Trans t-shirt

Fashion meets trans, meets a call to action.

T for tranny t-shirt

My Generation t-shirt

Gender Roles are Dead t-shirt



Trans Pride t-shirt

Sleeveless t-shirt

'Genitals \neq Gender
I wore this shirt to give a talk
I wrote with the same title:
'Genitals do not equal gender'.
I wrote that piece an impassioned ally, or so I thought. Whilst practising the talk with my husband, he paused me and asked: 'is this your coming-out speech?'
I recall feeling a jolt of muddled emotions, relief, shame, joy- 'yeah'
I said, 'I think it is!' That's how I came out to my husband as trans.'

TRANS FEMINISM

Gender is increasingly recognised to be culturally and personally informed, rather than always reflecting a person's biological sex and physical appearance. This builds on the feminist principle that a woman's sex should not assign her 'gender' roles, and this is where trans politics and feminism meet to fight the same battle for gender equality.

'An intersectional approach recognises multiple identities exist in multiple combinations... It means being proactive in learning more about people with intersecting identities from the people who face oppression associated with those identities. It means understanding, respecting and celebrating the diversity of our communities.'

Sabah Choudrey, *Inclusivity: Supporting BAME Trans People*, GIRES.

CABINET OF CURIOSITY

A collection of ordinary and extraordinarily intimate objects

Orange and navy socks

'When I came out to my family, no one seemed to understand how or why this happened. Everyone carried on with their lives and I felt extremely unaccepted months went by and Christmas of 2015 and I was very excited to know it was my first Christmas as a boy. And I had worries about this. I wouldn't accept me who I was. But that morning I woke up to these socks at the end of my bed. from the boys section. I took this as a sign of acceptance. I continue to get many versions of orange socks and this experience has helped me to give them out too.'

Black baseball cap

'My favourite hat ... As a child I would watch my granddad with pure adoration. He was always stylishly dressed in a suit and his best church hat ... He had many beautiful qualities which I admire, best of all he was a gentleman. He was passed away before I could explain to him how much he shaped me as a person. He taught me kindness and I would like to think many great, great qualities. He also is the reason I love hats.'

Silver women's shoes

'Not long after I started my transition, my cousin asked me to be a bridesmaid. I wore these shoes and a dress which my mum made. I was absolutely shitting myself in church but it was a beautiful day (<3).
Maeve x'

Self-portrait

'This is a drawing from my ongoing art project called "Boi Becomes Hare". I combine a self-portrait with a ghastly image of a symbolic hare, to disorder the traditional Western ideas of "transformation" and "transition".'

Goggles

'THESE ARE THE FIRST PAIR OF GOGGLES THAT I HAD OWNED IN YEARS, SINCE UNDERGOING TOP SURGERY IN EARLY 2015. It's great to fully savour the sensations of the water on my bare chest as I swim underwater in the swimming pool and the sea.'

Gscene magazine and trunks worn on cover

'I wore these speedos for my first ever swim after top surgery. Before that, I hadn't swam in over 10 years, despite swimming a lot as a kid. When asked to be on the front cover of Gscene magazine, I pushed the trans swimming sessions, but was shocked they blacked out the pool, so it looks like I'm naked for no reason!'

Trans bracelet

'I knew I was trans in February 2015, and I decided on my name change in the September of the same year. However, it wasn't until a year later that I found the courage to come out to my mum, but even then I didn't really have courage in that part of myself. I guess in a way wearing this everyday helped me get over how scared I was of people finding out I was trans...' Charli-17

Fiddle toy

'A fiddle toy to take my mind off negative feelings.'





Loom band bracelet

'This is a bracelet in the trans flag colours that my partner made me. It made me feel like my trans identity is valid and made me begin to feel proud to be myself and take some of the stigma away from being trans.' Dylan Johnson (He)

Pepper spray

'I was the victim of hate crime on the day of the (Brexit) referendum. Afterwards, a trans friend gave me this pepper spray, it is illegal in the UK. Being someone of a magickal persuasion I have other techniques to protect myself, so I never used it.' Jeanne D

Victoria's Secrets shaping

inserts

'I used these "chicken fillets" before I started hormones. It was a convenient way of shapeshifting quickly when I needed to!' Jeanne D

Name Badge

My Dead Name i.d. badge

'This is my Social Security System (old Philippine ID), it is similar to National Insurance here in the UK. My dead name and my picture it's in here. Thought of not to put my recent picture. I acknowledge the past, I am enjoying and making the most of the present to be fully prepared for the future. xxx Love, Hope & Peace.'

Trans Pride material patch

Trans Pride flier

Trans Pride flag sticker

Trans Pride black and white sticker

Trans Pride bottle opener

Hand-embroidered sampler

'MY TRANSNESS CANNOT BE DEFINED IN A SINGLE IMAGE – Z.G., 21, AGENDER.'

Pencil sharpener with missing blade

'This sharpener is something that has a missing blade, I struggle with self-harm and so I take them out, because of my gender and the thoughts people have about me.'

Ballet shoes

'My first pair of ballet shoes. I've been doing ballet since I was 4 years old. When I came out I was worried that people wouldn't see me as male because of my love of ballet and pointe, but because I love it so much I refused to quit. Since coming out, I've been more confident in my dancing, and while they were worn long before my transition, they hold a lot of memories for me, as ballet has made me the man I am.'

Blue and orange crocodile dog toy

'This was my dogs beloved toy. My dog always accepts and loves me just as I am, I'm his Daddy no matter how I look or feel. Playing with him makes the world ok again, even if just for a few minutes.'

Hello Kitty plush toy

'This Kitty is as fabulous! As me, it says 'I Love You' because got to love yourself!' Handmade card from prisoner

My Little Pony

'Immersing myself in My Little Pony is how I manage dysphoria.'

Rainbow kippah

'This KIPPAH is a loan from the TWILIGHT PEOPLE collection. Thank you www.twilightpeople.com' 'This rainbow kippah (Jewish religious headgear) signifies the miracle of my journey: assigned female, tomboy, secular, coming out as queer, practising my faith, coming out as trans, transitioning, using my Hebrew name. In all this, I have queered the traditionally cis-male Kippah not just by the rainbow pattern but by making it trans-masculine.'

Pink heart pink badge

'This was given to me by someone who I once loved. It didn't work out because they were a total dickhead! However, I hate to admit they opened my eyes to the endless possibilities of gender. I owe my realisation of my identity to them. – Niámh'

Fabric patch badge

'MY OBJECT IS A PATCH I MADE WHEN I FELT PROUD.'

Cake topper

'This was a cake topper from my 18th birthday cake. It was my first birthday after coming out to my parents as transgender. It's also when my family started using the correct name and pronouns. It is therefore a symbol to me of my parents acceptance :)'

Boxer shorts plastic bag

'Marks & Sparks hipster trunks satisfy my autistic urges for stripes and a good plastic bag. Lots of Aspergic and autistic have gender-fluid thinking or are trans*.'

Song in a jar and zine

'Please display the jar with the cork in. If the cork comes off, it's ok, the song should stay in, it's not subject to gravity. It might dry out over a few decades though! In which case, you could get a different one!'

Pentacorn compact disc

'We sing and shout a bit about how we feel about o[u]r gender. Psychedelic post punk witches Angela Jo Mich Maeve'

'Find A Penny' badge

'This good luck charm was one of the first made for me by my best friend Izzy when I went into hospital for gender-reassignment surgery.'

BBC Radio 4 badge

'I am a Radio 4 man through and through (except when I am disloyal and tune to Radio 2!). I have been brought up on BBC Radio 4, and as well as finding the majority of their output extremely interesting and thought-provoking, I have also found the sound of it just being on very comforting. Over the last 4 or 5 years they have broadcast quite a few trans-related programmes too, which is a very good sign indeed.'

'Son in a million' badge

'This is a badge from the first birthday card my mum and dad gave me after I transitioned. It meant, and still means, so much to me. They are incredibly supportive. I feel very lucky.'



'Tootsie'

'This is a cult '80s movie, starring Dustin Hoffman. It has always been, and will always be, my favourite ever film. Hoffman won an Oscar for his role as Michael Dorsey, an out-of-work actor who takes on the biggest challenge of his life, becoming Dorothy Michaels, just so he can get a part in a big daytime soap. It's a fantastic film: heart-warming, hugely poignant, very funny, and so incredibly well written. I first saw it when I was 8 and it struck an almighty chord with me, both due to the almighty challenges he faces becoming "Dorothy" (he says, "she was the best part of me") and due to the fact that he was a struggling actor.'

'2 point 4 children'

'This was a very popular and funny sitcom from the '90s. I grew up with it and loved it. A very important person to me throughout my secondary-school years, Gemma, told me I reminded her of "Ben", the dad in the series, so started to call me "Ben". I loved this, and chose it as my rightful male name.'

Polaroid photograph of me

'I took this when I was in my first year at university in Brighton. I had been attending Charing Cross Gender Identity Clinic (as it was called then) for two years and I had finally been given the go-ahead to start transitioning officially. I took this photo in the bathroom mirror in my uni room halls, and then drew on facial hair to show how I would want to look ideally, as I have been doing since I was about 5 or 6.'

Cartoon series

'Drawing cartoon pictures helps me to honour my past, some of which are related to childhood memories of gender dysphoria and feelings of isolation in a world that didn't seem to have a place for me. Anna /x'

Are you a boy or are you a girl? book

'I co-created this book with Sarah Savage. When we met on *My Transsexual Summer* (14) we both said we wanted to make a kids' book to help simplify and explain gender nonconformity to young people. The book was a successful Kickstarter and has been picked up by Jessica Kingsley publishers, to be released again in 2017, with new illustrations and more plot!'



Queer Paganism by Jo Green

'I couldn't find a book that described my gender and spirituality, so I wrote one.'
DIVA magazine & letter

TRANSITIONAL DEMANDS zine

'Trans people and the welfare state. Democratise trans healthcare. Wages for advocacy. Action for trans health.'

Diary excerpt

'Diary Entry. April, 2012. An excerpt from my diary, written whilst drunk.... this captures my thoughts & feelings during the time I accepted myself, and began my journey....'

Hotpencil Press postcard

'Limited edition art postcard for *THERE IS NO WORD FOR IT*, Hotpencil Press, 2009. Artist: Simon Croft, www.simoncroft.co.uk.'

THERE IS NO WORD FOR IT by Laura Bridgeman & Serge Nicholson

'Publication of the theatre piece *The (Trans) Mangina Monologues*. *THERE IS NO WORD FOR IT*, by Laura Bridgeman and Serge Nicholson, Hotpencil Press, 2011, www.hotpencilpress.com.'



TRANS: A Memoir by Juliet Jaques

'Juliet was the first transgender person I know. I admired her dj-ing and then her inspiring *Guardian* transition story.'

Bumblebee photo

'This picture is from a holiday in Vancouver- where I first realised i was transgender, and got asked if i was a boy for the first time- "shopping with your son?"'

Brighton Trans*formed book

'This HLF-funded Brighton project by QueenSpark Books changed the face of the trans community in our city. We plastered the side of the wall of the pub with photocopies of our faces and all came out to the local community walking past. We projected huge images of our faces onto the side of a church in the busiest part of town. And we found each other, and worked together, and listened to each other's stories.'

Nervus record

'We get forced down the tube of identity according to our genitals' – Em, guitarist/ vocalist, Nervus.'

Trans Pride flag

Trans Pride badge

'I DESIGNED AND SCREENPRINTED THE TRANS PRIDE LOGO AND MERCH. AFTER FEEDBACK, IN THE FIRST YEAR, THAT IT WASN'T THAT READABLE FOR SOME PEOPLE, WE ALSO SCRAPPED THE ASTERIX IN TRANS* PRIDE AS THE * WASN'T INCLUSIVE.'

LGBTI Intersex inclusive badge

'My intersex inclusive badge is very important. Intersex people can be trans too! Sex and gender are very binary. It shouldn't be acceptable! It ruins lives! #BreakTheBinary.'

Non-binary badge

'A year ago I set up an organisation for non-binary people in Ireland. I hope one day we'll all know what non-binaries are.' @NonBinaryIRL

Brighton Trans*formed badges x 4

'The group working on the Brighton Trans*formed exhibition met week after week and put all our faces on badges – they sold out at Trans Pride. This just goes to show how trans people seek out others like them, and the importance of standing up bravely to be out and counted – if you can.'



Face badge

'Got a new job, got my face in the local LGBTQ press, felt a bit awkward about it. Got presented with a badge with my own face on it by a young person I support. Funny.'

'Transpals' badge

'Freedom to proudly be ourselves. Transpals.org.uk' TRANS CHE TRANSFABULOUS VIVA LA REVOLUTION! badge Badge designed by Bird La Bird and Alexanta Lazar for Transfabulous, 2007

Badge 'they / them'

'This badge made me more confident in disclosing my nonbinary identity when I started at university. It makes me feel visible, valid and starts conversations I struggle to initiate myself.'

'I'm a collector. I save objects to trigger memories of special events.

This collection is everything I saved from my chest surgery. My name tag, the gown and anti-blood clot socks I wore in the operating theatre, the 'It's a Boy' balloon my best friends brought to the hospital, the binder that I wore post-surgery that still has blood on it, the documentation... And, of course, the bits that caused my lactose intolerance.

Having surgery changed how I lived as a person, and allowed me to de-traumatise part of the daily physical oppression that is my experience of being trans. This collection started what I now call the Museum of Transology.'

E-J Scott, curator of Museum of Transology

'Hospital Collection' from E-J Scott

Collection of clipboards, documenting mastectomy and collection of specimens

DVT stockings

NHS hospital towel, Princess Royal Hospital Haywards Heath

'It's a boy' balloon

NHS hospital gown, Princess Royal Hospital Haywards Heath

Breast tissue preserved in formaldehyde

'E-J', photograph by Bharat Sikka, *Reimagine*, Brighton Photo Biennial, 2016



'Suited', outfit by artist Simon Croft

"Suited' is made from packaging from about four years of my personal usage of testosterone injections. For me, taking testosterone is a vital part of making my masculinity visible and experiential, like putting on a really well fitting suit.'

Anna Chivers' medical collection

'In my case medical treatment was critical. Without it I don't think I would have survived. Medical treatment isn't wanted or accessible to everyone and it doesn't define being trans, no matter what the media or anyone else tells you!' Anna /x

Feeling Hormonal; a selection of hormonal gender treatments

Sustanon packet

'Sustanon 250 is the best thing that has happened to me apart from my wife and son! It's made me the husband and father I always wanted to be.'

Estradiol packets x 2

'These saved my life in more than one way.'

Sustanon box

'Finally! In the first term of my second year at uni, the consultants gave me the go-ahead to start having testosterone injections. I was so happy! I felt like it had taken forever to reach that point. I will continue to have these injections for the rest of my life.'

Evorel 100 empty packet

'Back in 2010 my ex saw me putting on a pair of socks whilst I was sitting on the base of our bed, facing the mirrored wardrobe; she exclaimed 'my god you've got tits!'. It was a result of self-medicating. A couple of years later I was eventually prescribed hormones and although I used oestrogen in pill form until gender reassignment surgery (GRS), afterwards I went onto transdermal patches: Evorel 100. Unfortunately, I had a skin reaction and have since moved onto Oestrogel.'

Testosterone amps

'Anonymous'

Testorel empty packet

'Hormones made me feel better than I expected straightaway and after a few months I started to recognise myself.'

Testorel sachet cabinet shot

'This little sachet made me so ill for the first six months, yet I battled through. It represents determination and hope that things would get better – and they did!'

Testogel sachet

'I started taking Testogel on Transgender Day of Remembrance (20 November) 2014. I was looking forward to taking it for so long. I'm very happy with my deeper voice and some facial hair.'

Elleste Solo 2mg tablet box

Estradot packet cut-out

Used Progynova packet

'The medication that has finally allowed me, in part, to look like myself after 40 years.'



Sandrena and Triptoreli' packets

'These are oestrogen gel packets and a testosterone blocking injection. I use three gel packets every day and the injection every 10 weeks. Getting these was an annoying process. The mental health team were unsupportive and obstructive. I had to self-medicate for a month as I felt desperate, but it became too expensive. It took me a few years to get past the mental health team, but I eventually got prescribed these and they're a lifesaver.'

Androcur 50mg tablet box

Evorel 100 hormone packet

'These are my oestrogen patches... without these I was a singularly miserable person. I have always been confused as to why some people are so adamant that I should not be allowed them.'

T patch from Japan

'I started T (testosterone) when I was 18 years old. I often get bad side effects. But this made me who I really am. I wouldn't be here without this.'

Testogel box and sachets x 15

'This is an old box of Testogel. Testogel was the first kind of testosterone that I started taking. I started it on 24 September 2013. I now take an injectable testosterone. So this box reminds me of my early feelings of medical transition.'

Progynova

'I got these after I had already been self-medicating with birth control pills for almost two years. After finally getting a prescription for Progynova I was surprised to find that they actually made me very emotionally unstable and really depressed for the first time in my life. This has almost completely disappeared now but it was a reminder that not all steps in transition are simple.'

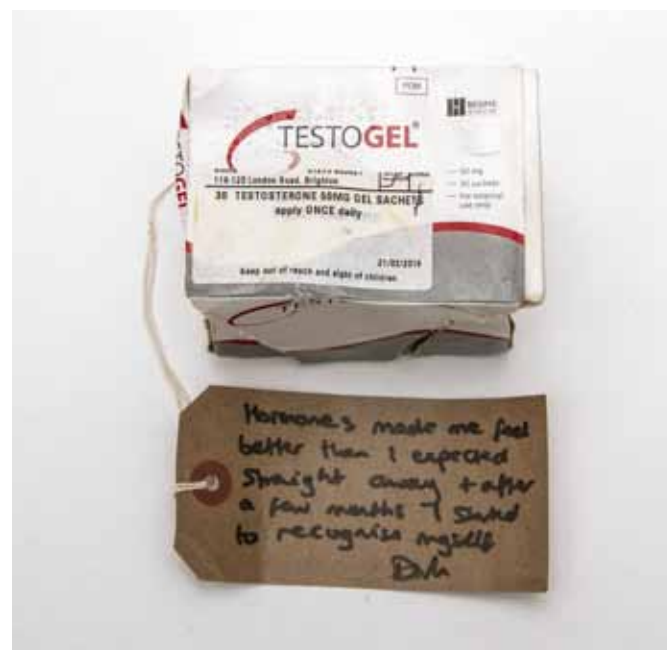
Testosterone box in packaging

'This is my first ever vial of Sustanon. My nurse refused to use it as she didn't trust my source! The 48 hour delay for my shot felt like 48 years! However, eight months later, I've never been happier!'

WELCOME HOME

Due to transphobia and prejudice, when trans people 'come out' they often lose contact with communities from their earlier lives, including family, friends, previous partners and children. Coupled with the fact that they are unlikely to have grown up in a community surrounded by other trans people, they can face social isolation. This can also be physical, with one in three respondents to the *Trans Needs Assessment 2015* survey reporting that they had been homeless in the last five years.

This experience of isolation can be eased not only by supportive trans communities, but also through the inclusion of trans stories in museums. By offering engagement with the past, museums can provide a way of making sense of the present, in order to inform a positive and responsible future. In the words of LGBTQ historian Susan Ferentinos, 'to offer roots to those who have one time or another found themselves without any is a very powerful gift indeed'.



Welcome Home labels

Bobble hat

'This hat is a really key object to me, when i had waist-length long hair i used to tuck it into this hat and pretend it was short – i didn't know why i did it, it just felt right.'

Gendered Intelligence name tag

Envelope

'This envelope is the first piece of mail I have ever received with my name on. It contained this tag so that I could contribute a piece of myself to this collection. These early stages of my transition are full of firsts and this one feels important and I'm so grateful for it. L.'

Letter from HM the Queen

'My letter from the Queen after I changed my passport.'

GScene Trans Pride

Train ticket 1

'The collection receipt for my train tickets to attend Trans Pride Brighton. It is an event that celebrates and helps to makes us more equal and acceptable in society!'

Train ticket 2

'This was the ticket I used to meet my Canadian girlfriend, the first time seeing her in person as her boyfriend instead of her girlfriend. An amazing moment!'

Train ticket 3

'This is a prop from the last movie made by a comedic film group I started at university. Our group was almost entirely trans, and the few who weren't (bar one) were at least one other letter of the LGBTQ acronym. Our works included, amongst others, *A Cismas Carol*, *Mama Queer!*, and a reimagining of the nativity story (featuring a pregnant Marcus and his wife Josephine, along with

an inn keeper who is disgusted to discover that her husband has a penis). Most comedy featuring trans characters seems to use us as cheap punchlines, so the films were a way of being funny on our terms, lifting low spirits, and highlighting the ridiculousness of transphobia. We never made the films public, but we had private premieres where we'd dress up, get drunk and celebrate our creations.'

Train ticket 4

'Train ticket to my first GLDS appointment 19 January 2017.'

Blue earring

'I am giving up my blue stud earring; it is very special to me as I have worn it to Brighton for the first Trans Pride event which is a great deal for me.'

Thai Airways card

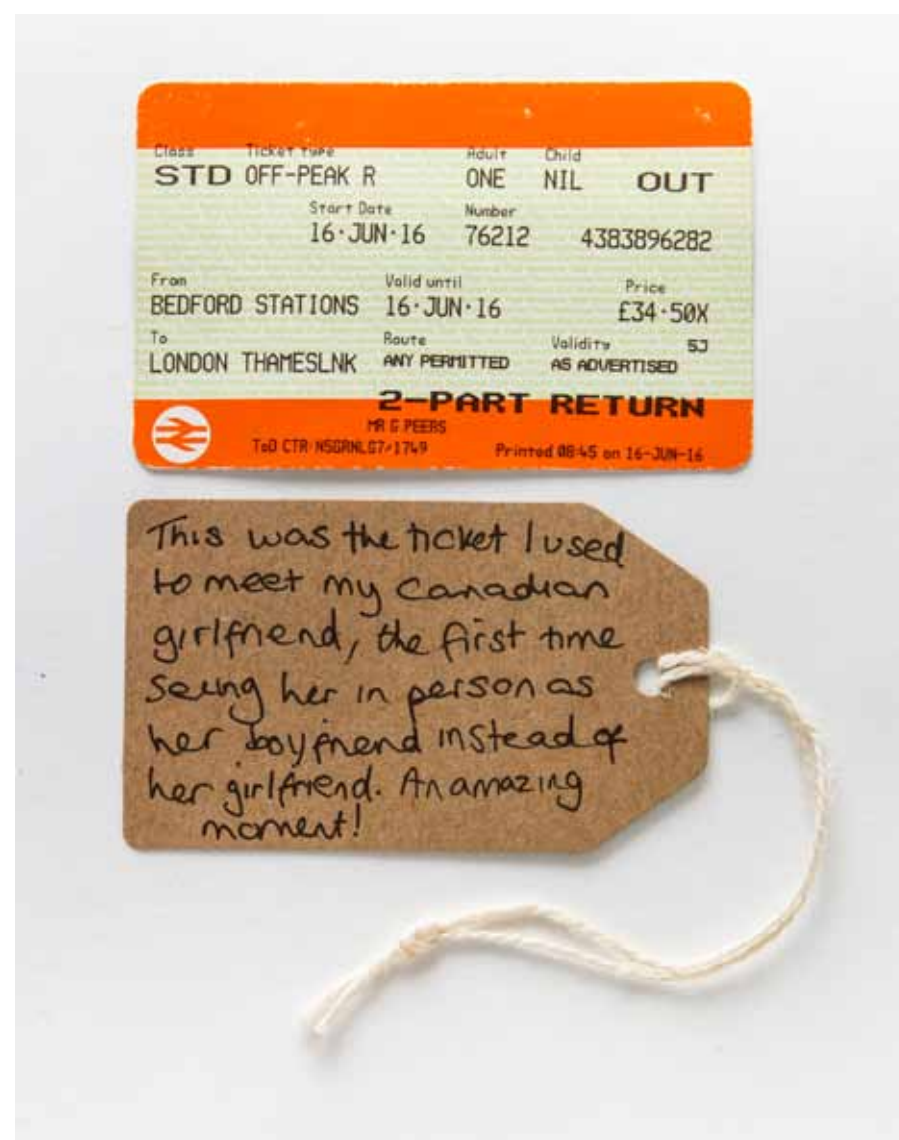
'Thailand is very trans friendly although it took a year to change my name. Also, the "lightbulb" moment for me was in Laos.'

Name badge

'This name badge is from when I was the intern at Allsorts Youth Project. I started my journey at Allsorts as a service user and now I'm a full time member of staff. I am so proud of the organisation, the team and the young people <3'

Clip-on school neck tie

'This is the tie I wore on my first day living fully as a boy. I moved school to transition as my previous school taught boys and girls separately (weird right?!). This tie means so much because it was like a new birth day, no longer living in the past but having a new and more positive future.'



THE CIS-GAZE

Over the last decade there has been a surge in interest in the media surrounding the trans experience, much of which is invasive and discriminatory. Not only are the tabloid press guilty, BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* was highlighted in the *Transgender Equality Inquiry 2016* as having 'a history of treating trans people with "incredulity"'. In contrast, the fashion media appears to be increasingly embracing trans, non-binary and genderqueer models as the mainstream popularity of genderless fashion continues to grow.

Increasingly, trans filmmakers, bloggers and artists are expressing the diversity of trans lives by producing their own material, self-publishing online and showing at festivals. By celebrating racial, class and body diversity, this work directly challenges the stereotypical images of trans culture promoted by mainstream media.

Neneh Cherry and Devonté Hynes *He,She,Me*

A film by Kathryn Ferguson and Alex Turvey, featuring Hari Nef. Commissioned by Selfridges, 2015 Running time: 3.33 mins

My Generation

Run by Fox Fisher and Owl Stefania, founded by Fox Fisher and Lewis Hancox Films courtesy of Fox Fisher, 2011 – 2016 Running time: 94.53 mins

According to trans filmmaker Fox Fisher: 'It's so important that trans people create their own content. For me, it was a form of therapy to set up *My Generation*, after having a difficult experience taking part in a mainstream doc series, *My Transsexual Summer*.'

Sexing The Transman XXX Vol. 4

A film by Buck Angel, 2011 Running time: 8.10 mins

A knitwear project tackling issues surrounding migration and finding one's gender identity

Film and design by Lingxiao Luo RCA Fashion Knitwear Running time: 1.47 mins

Walls

A music video by Chloe King Running time: 4.57 mins

Projections

Museum of Transology, 2016
Transpride, Sharon Kilgannon, 2016
Brighton Trans-formed, Sharon Kilgannon, 2013
Munroe Bergdorf, Rankin, 2016

'It's important that spaces created by and for trans people exist. A place where we can share our art, words and authentic selves.'

J, Editor of *Beyond the Binary*

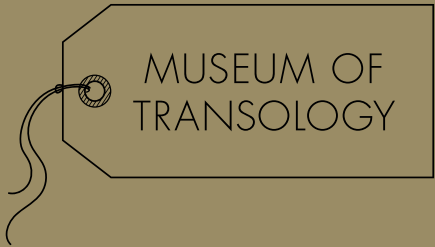
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MUSEUM OF
TRANSOLOGY