

Four Corners Curatorial Statement

Four Corners is a learning, production and exhibition centre for film and photography. We provide a unique and stimulating artistic programme that builds upon the distinguished history and archive collection of Four Corners and Camerawork, while encouraging artistic excellence and critical enquiry among exceptional still and moving image practitioners. In particular we seek to support projects that engage with social, cultural and political themes, and which open up alternative perspectives for audiences. This includes a specific, though not exclusive, focus on work made in and about East London.

Since 1976, Four Corners has developed independent filmmaking through specialist training, production and education; supporting people marginalised from engagement with the arts. The Half Moon Photography Workshop (later Camerawork) established in 1972 promoted socially-concerned, documentary photography through its gallery and workshop project; producing the influential *Camerawork* magazine and innovative touring exhibitions.

When Camerawork closed in 2000, Four Corners re-established the gallery and darkrooms, creating a centre for both film and photography. Four Corners' archive project is ensuring the lasting legacy of Camerawork's history through the creation of a dedicated website and resource.

Today, Four Corners sustains its commitment to inclusive and socially engaged practice, as well as varied forms of innovative work, bringing together artists, practitioners and communities in sharing and supporting the development of art that challenges and inspires. Every year, we actively engage with audiences from across the UK through the following key areas of activity:

A public gallery programme that comprises exhibitions, talks and events that engages with artists and curators exploring film, photography and contemporary visual arts. This includes dry hires from organisations that share Four Corners' ethos and values.

Artist residencies and commissions which offer the use of production and facilities to support the development of new bodies of work and increase opportunities for audience engagement.

Arts, education and training projects providing opportunities for diverse audiences to engage with innovative and creative projects and artists.

Developing collaborative partnerships with leading local and national arts organisations for both on and off-site projects. Partners include Birkbeck, University of London, Bishopsgate Institute, British Film Institute, Photography and the Archive Research Centre (PARC) at the University of the Arts, East End Women's Museum, Sir John Cass School of Art at London Metropolitan University, Alternative Arts, Swadhinata Trust, Space, Photofusion, Cockpit Arts and Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives.