

PRESS RELEASE

Monica Ross: a celebration

13-14 June 2015 Beaconsfield | The British Library

60 Acts—Monica Ross and co-reciters 2008-13

the video record by Bernard G Mills

Beaconsfield

13 June, 11am-8pm with drinks gathering from 5pm

Monica Ross—An Act of Memory

Andrew Michelson and co-reciters

The British Library, Entrance Hall

14 June, 2pm

Over the weekend of 13-14 June 2015, the Monica Ross Action Group invites us to celebrate the life and work of pioneering artist Monica Ross.

As parliament debates whether to abolish the Human Rights Act, posterity may see *Anniversary – an act of Memory* as the seminal work of her career. The work entailed sixty public recitations by the artist of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by memory, with 60 different communities across the UK and beyond. On the 14 June 2013, the day of the sixtieth and concluding recitation of *Anniversary—an act of memory* that took place at the 23rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, Monica Ross died of cancer.

On 13 June, the premier screening of Bernard G Mills' video documentation *Anniversary—an act of memory solo, collective and multi-lingual recitations from memory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a performance series in 60 Acts, Monica Ross and Co-Reciters 2008-2013* will be shown all day at Beaconsfield. Documentation of the scrolls made as a hand-written record of each Act, signed by each participant in her/his own language will also be on display.

On 14 June, Andrew Michelson will lead an enactment of the work at the British Library marking the British Library's acquisition of Ross' complete archive and the anniversary of Monica Ross' death in the context of the anniversary of the Magna Carta, Britain's first iteration of human rights. This is an open recitation so please feel free to attend and/or choose an article to learn by heart and recite on the day.

More information here: <http://www.bl.uk/events/monica-ross-an-act-of-memory>

Beaconsfield is proud to have hosted the first solo iteration of this project, *rights repeated*, by Monica Ross in 2005. The first collective recitation of the expanded project Acts of Memory was hosted by The British Library as part of Taking Liberties, 2008.

PRESS ENQUIRIES

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Notes for editors:

Monica Ross Action Group

www.monicaross.org

British artist Monica Ross (b.1950) died in 2013 leaving a forty year body of pioneering socially-engaged, feminist and performative art practice that has profound significance for contemporary art and society. Susan Hiller, Suzanne Treister, Anne Tallentire and family members Alice Ross and Bernard G Mills have established a Monica Ross Action Group (MRAG) to serve Ross' important legacy. MRAG aims to fully archive, digitise, activate and disseminate her work through a digital archive at The British Library, a published monograph, multiple exhibitions and a comprehensive website, so that the work can be widely accessed and new audiences fostered and developed. Contact: MrossActionGroup@gmail.com

The British Library, Sunday 14 June at 2pm

Monica Ross: An Act of Memory

a collective recitation, from memory, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<http://www.bl.uk/events/monica-ross-an-act-of-memory>

This recitation will follow workshops in collaboration with Chickenshed Theatre, Chelsea, local schools and the British Library Youth Forum. The workshops are devised to develop a set of online resources for adults and children to use as a guide for staging Acts of Memory recitations independently as Monica Ross had wished.

The work raises awareness of and increases public engagement with the breadth, depth and life work of the artist Monica Ross. This recitation constitutes a fitting testament to her unique contribution to the field of experimental and theoretically engaged performance art practice.

Monica Ross's archive is now held digitally with the British Library.

Shoreditch Town Hall, Sunday 21 June at 3pm

Screening of Act 37 as part of Counterpoints Arts dis/placed programme

counterpointsarts.org.uk/event/displaced/

Monica Ross Action Group members Bernard G Mills and Alice Ross will be involved in a discussion event facilitated by Live Art Development Agency's Lois Keidan.

Recently published writings on Monica's work and legacy

Contemporary Theatre Review, 2015 Vol. 25, No. 2, 273–291,

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10486801.2015.1021142> Backpages

An academic review of Monica Ross: a symposium held on Friday 28 November 2014 at the British Library, London <http://www.bl.uk/events/monica-ross--a-symposium>

Acts of Memory website: <http://www.actsofmemory.net>