

# About

Soft Fiction Projects is an artist run initiative founded in 2018 by artists Alessia Cargnelli and Emily McFarland.

Soft Fiction Projects is based between Belfast and Glasgow, dedicated to producing digital and printed matter on film and artist moving image culture. The printed project acts as a forum for presenting new collaborations, artworks, research and writing from invited artists and contributors.

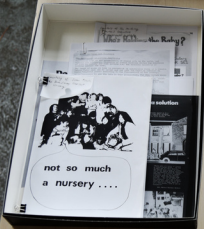
Revisiting recent history in moving image practices, Soft Fiction Projects research focus is an exploration of underrepresented voices, oppositional histories, geopolitical narratives which challenge and reframe dominant hegemonic power structures.

IT DIDN'T  
BELONG  
TO ANY  
OF US

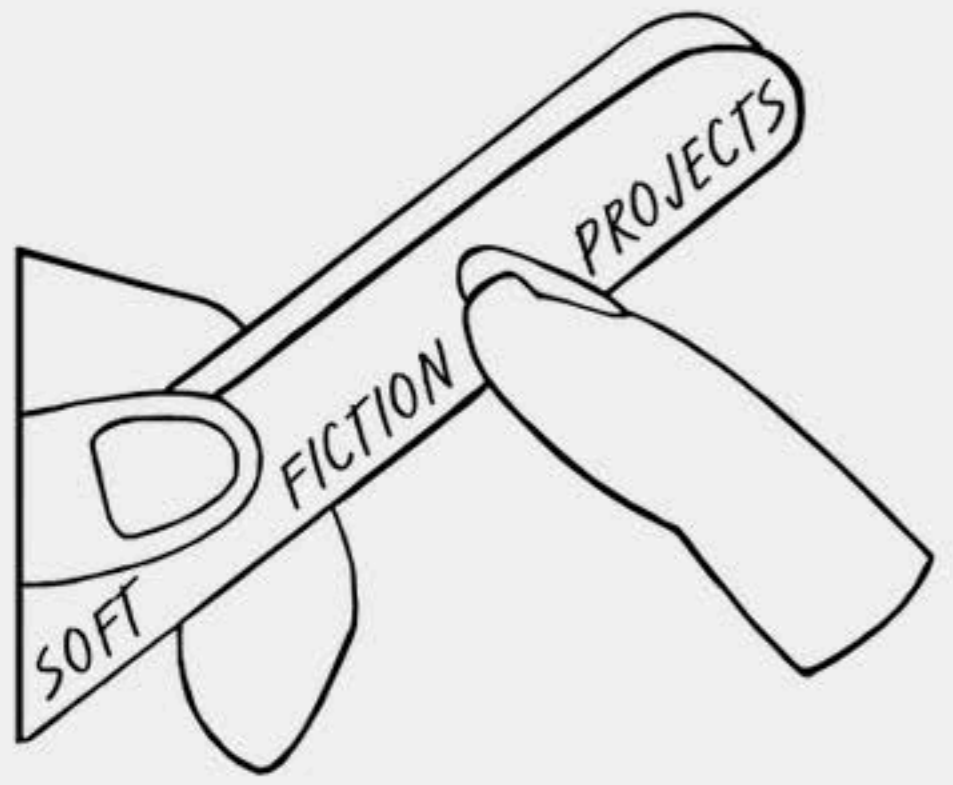
AND IT  
BELONGED  
TO ALL  
OF US







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# MAKING SPACE

Housing, Feminism and Urban Change

Making Space is a project by Soft Fiction Projects developed during a month-residency at Guest Projects London, on July 2019.

The project focuses on the particular history of feminism, housing and urban change in Hackney during the mid 1970's.

Re-visiting theoretical research and publicly funded social projects developed by the Matrix Feminist Design Co-Operative - authors of the book 'Making Space: Women and the man-made environment' - this project will explore the origins of a community of women who moved in squatted houses in the Hackney neighbourhood, in the late 1970's, and the historical importance of this community in providing an opportunity for women to live autonomously, connected to wider feminist politics in London, and take control over their immediate build environment.

The residency will culminate in a small printed publication with a limited edition run of 250 copies and will incorporate the research generated over the month and act as a lasting document of the conversations generated as a result of the project.

[More info here.](#)

Current / Upcoming →

Picture credits

Research Images 1 and 2: credits 'Making Space: Women and the man made environment' by Matrix Design Studio, Pluto Press London 1984; pag.43: 'urban obstacle courses'

Research Image 3. Source: Wall, Christine, "We don't have leaders! We're doing it ourselves", Field Journal, Vol 7(1), page 137. Image credits: Architects Mary-Lou Ascott and Susan Francis, one of the founder members of Matrix, setting out a floor plate.

Image 4-5: Some of the research materials showcased in Guest Projects.

## MAKING SPACE HOUSING, FEMINISM AND URBAN CHANGE

### [Soft Fiction Projects](#)

Soft Fiction Projects is an artist run initiative founded in 2018 by artists Alessia Cagnelli and Emily McFarland - based between Belfast and Glasgow. SFP's research focuses on current and historical narratives of radical cultural, social and economic resistance and examines the potential of these actions to be reconsidered within a contemporary context.

Guest Projects residency will be a month long period of research, development and hosting of a public programme within the gallery space.

The project, titled MAKING SPACE, will focus on the history of feminism, housing and urban change in Hackney, London, in the 1980's.

Re-visiting theoretical research and publicly funded social projects developed by the Matrix Feminist Design Co-Operative - authors of the book 'Making Space: Women and the man-made environment' - this project will explore the origins of a community of women who moved in squatted houses in the Hackney neighbourhood, in the late 1970's, and the historical importance of this community in providing an opportunity for women to live autonomously, connected to wider feminist politics in London, and take control over their immediate build environment.

As part of our joint residency at Guest Projects we will use the gallery space as a forum and set within which to host a series of talks and public debates around the socio-political context of the current social housing crisis, inviting local civil-justice groups and activists to join the conversation. Over the duration of the month we will host a series of public events, screenings and a public forum with a range of guest speakers from local social justice and activist groups, to generate a discussion around wealth distribution and housing provision in the current socio-political landscape .

The residency will culminate in a small printed publication with a limited edition run of 250 copies and will incorporate the research generated over the month and act as a lasting document of the conversations generated as a result of the project.

### **MAKING SPACE : Screening Programme**

To conclude [MAKING SPACE](#), a one-month residency at [Guest Projects](#), Soft Fiction Projects will present a screening programme with a selection of video and films expanding upon the research they have been undertaking during their time in Hackney.

The three short films present parallel histories and stories related to social housing provision and collective community resistance against government policies which entrench an individualistic social and economical system.

*The Hackney Food Co-op*, 1973, (9 Minutes), television programme with reporter Bernard Falk, BFI Archives.

*The Life and Hard Times of Susie p Winklepicker*, 1986, (35 Minutes), Dir. Deborah Hall / Women and The Law Collective, Cinenova Collection.

*Looking On*, 2009, (33 Minutes), Dir. Sé Merry Doyle, Loopline Collection & IFI Archives.