

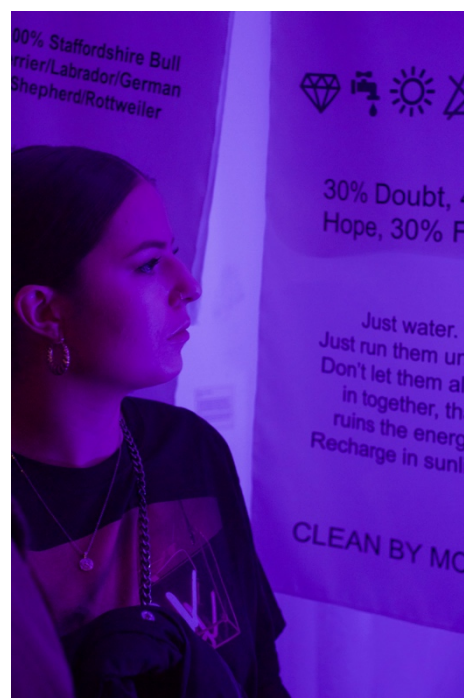
Shonagh Short

Care Instructions

Fabric, washing line, pegs

2018

"A series of oversized care labels based on interviews with women on an estate in Bolton about the most precious thing they clean. The Care Instructions project forms part of my ongoing exploration of class and gender through the theme of cleanliness/dirt. I am interested in how places and bodies, particularly those belonging to the working class, are represented as dirty, and how cleaning and cleanliness are viewed as a means to becoming respectable. The installation here takes as its subject our domestic rituals of care and caring. I asked women living on an estate in Bolton to share with me the care instructions for the most precious thing they clean. In return I took in a bag of washing from each woman, cleaning, drying, ironing and folding. I was interested in making their hidden labour visible by locating these everyday acts of care in an art context, thereby challenging the low value attached to domestic work."



Contact details:

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Where in the North of England are you based?

Bolton

What does living in The North mean to you?

Grit. Soul. Never entering a house without being offered a brew. Home. Family. A hill in every direction. Dropping pointless consonants but always finding time to chat. History. Pride. Moaning about the rain unless it doesn't rain in which case it is definitely too hot. Fierce matriarchs. Dark humour. Pasty barmes in winter and ice cream wafer sandwiches in summer (Bolton invented both, because there is nothing we can't sandwich). Talking all on top of each other. Proper swearing.

What inspires you?

I am inspired by the everyday people and conversations and habits and details that everyone else seems to think are completely ordinary but I find weird and brilliant. I am completely in love with Northern eccentricities, especially those that defy the stereotypes.