

I spent a weekend there sometime in 1984/5, when I was a student at Middlesex Poly.

I think the experience made me see, witness and realise that women can have an effect politically and culturally in a different way and very significant way, if they work collectively. The women had no fear together, we went at night in the rain to bang on the fence in pouring rain right in front of soldiers with guns and we repeated words of peace and sang words of piece, fiercely. It was an inspiration. Particularly the older women.

I do feel it had a profound affect on me, as I went on to have a lifetime of activism and art activism, even as a working class girl from the North-East. It showed I could say no to violence.

I have worked with women's groups all my life since, 37 years to date; supporting women to be their full wonderful selves; through body work, relaxation and dance - finding ways they felt comfortable expressing themselves - often at the Peoples Centre's that there were three of in the 1980/90's in North Tyneside. And then through art, sculpture and supporting my own mother to leave my Dad after a life time of domestic violence.

I then became one of the three founding members of the first Trade Union for Visual Artists in England in 2012 - AUE - after being tired of years of exploitation as an artist, when all my work was cut in 2008 with Austerity, three of us decided we could do something for ourselves and find out how we might set up a trade union, with no money or backing from Art Organisations, and we still growing strong. :)

Hurrah for Greenham Common.
In Solidarity,

Angela