



A glimpse into the sex industry from the people who work in it.

How did a Melbourne health service come to support an art exhibition about sex work? It's a long story, but it turns out the sex work industry in Victoria can be a health hazard for those working in it.

In Victoria there is what is described as a "two tiered sex industry," whereby licensing allows people in some facilities to work legally, but many others end up working outside the legal framework. The Sex Worker art exhibition is being held to raise awareness, and to call for a decriminalised system where sex workers to have the same rights and protections in their work as other Australians.

Marie McInerney writes:

At the heart of The Sex Worker art exhibition now on show in Melbourne is a call for decriminalisation and equal rights – for sex workers to have the same rights and protections in their work that everyone else has.

But the exhibition's magic is in how it gives voice to more than 40 sex workers across Melbourne to talk about their work and lives – the challenges and rewards, the stigma and discrimination.

A unique opportunity to connect

At the formal opening of the exhibition last weekend, we heard how powerful it has been to bring the artists together on this project over the past two years – female, male, trans and gender diverse sex workers from different cultural backgrounds and different parts of the industry, including brothels, escort businesses and street work.

That unique opportunity to connect has produced about 80 works that are as diverse as the artists themselves: funny, sad, heartbreaking, provocative, humble, sharp and nuanced.

For a glimpse, watch this 2 minute video produced by exhibition facilitator Tamara Desiatov:
<https://vimeo.com/257060785>.

"We really wanted to normalise what we did"

Kora worked as a sex worker in a brothel for two years and helped bring the exhibition about.

"We really wanted to normalise what we did, to the outside world, outside the four walls we lived in during our work".

Listen to this interview with Kora:
https://soundcloud.com/user-550534661/180303_1508a

"Art as cultural resistance"

Queenie Bon-Bon is Victorian vice president of Scarlett Alliance, Australia's peak sex worker organisation. She spoke at the opening.

"Criminal consequence for consensual sex is fundamentally unhealthy and harmful and a punitive concept that should be abandoned. These laws tell us to stop what we are doing, not to carry on in better conditions. Sex workers just want same rights as everyone else.

When decriminalisation happens the moral fibre of the land won't evaporate but what will happen is that people who engage in sex work will be able to do so safely.

In Victoria, the frameworks that we work within perpetuate stigma and discrimination against our community and remain a major impediment for workers' wellbeing. This impacts our interpersonal relationships, as well as our access to health care services and how we can interact with the police.

Like so many marginalised groups, sex workers have a long history of art activism as a form of cultural resistance strategy. Arts (are) a way to connect with much larger audiences and connect more deeply than just with straightforward information.

It's such a joy for me to see this amazing work and for other people to be able to gain insights into the lives of sex workers and learn about the sex industry from people who know about it. It's so important for us to be able create work that gives us a real voice, that counters the media representations that perpetuate stereotypes and often try to silence our voices.

It's so powerful to have these bodies of work that can inspire our own lives, and also let so many different voices be heard. These works are a real investment in our community."

"Breaking down walls"

Sisters Rebecca and Carla were at the exhibition to represent their sister Kathleen, who had been a sex worker and was passionately involved in The Sex Worker project when she died suddenly in late 2016 due to an aneurysm.

They described her as a "trail blazer...with a keen sense of adventure", who had started to push gender roles and stereotypes early, to become one of Australia's first female submariners, before later moving into sex work.

She was really passionate about removing the stigma from sex work, passionate about decriminalisation. Basically the choice to work in sex work is simply that: it's a choice, and they have no less right to be safe and protected at work than anyone else and that's what Kathleen was passionate about. She worked hard at every role she was in and she deserved just as much protection in this role as she did in any other.



She was always one to push boundaries, challenge the social stigma around gender roles and sexuality. She was the one to see the person behind the title, behind the label, and influenced me and my sisters and whole family to do the same thing.

She challenged our own prejudices and predetermined view on sex work and sex workers and how we thought it would make her look and how we thought it would make our family look.

These kind of walls could only be broken down slowly through conversation, understanding and our unconditional love for Kathleen.

We are really proud to be here today to honour her and the amazing work she put into it for a cause which is so important."

Watch this interview with Carla about Kathleen and her work:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ST06uFdhRwl>

"Work in progress"

Lisa Marie took up sex work in her mid-50s and has become a powerful advocate for decriminalisation. With elderly men and men with disability among her clients, she talks about the crucial role that sex workers play in providing relief of 'skin hunger' for those with limited options for intimacy in their lives.

Read Lisa Marie's Op Ed, published in The Sunday Age: 'Time to fully decriminalise sex work' 4/03/2018.

Making the health case

Alan Murnane is General Manager of Primary and Mental Health at the South Melbourne-based StarHealth, which runs the RhED (Resourcing health and education in the sex industry) program that has facilitated the exhibition. He said:

Why would a health service work towards decriminalisation of sex work?

We come from a social model of health and understand the potential ramifications for sex workers of working either legally or illegally in the Victorian system. Both create stressful work situations, and ongoing stress creates health issues.

"Decriminalisation places greater control into the hands of sex workers to operate independently, self-organise in informal cooperatives and control their own working environments."

Listen to this interview with Alan Murnane and sex worker/artist Lisa Marie on ABC 774: <http://www.abc.net.au/radio/melbourne/programs/afternoons/the-sex-worker/9485888>

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For the full article please see: <https://croakey.org/a-glimpse-into-the-sex-industry-from-the-people-who-work-in-it/> 9/03/2018

Exhibition Visitors Book

Thankyou for creating a space of genuine expression - love.
I'm so proud to have been a part of this amazing project!
Kary

Thank you to all the amazing inspiring sex workers I met on this journey - as the Arts Fund tutor for the RhED ArtProject 2016-18. He been an amazing 2 years. Love Tammie Deandra
www.artprojecttheexhibition.com

Thank you to all the artists for expressing their working lives in such a creative way. And, of course, thanks to those who organised this exhibition. I loved it!

Sharon Knight MP
Member for Warrus
Parliamentary Secretary for Home Services
5 March 2018
-stay safe xxx

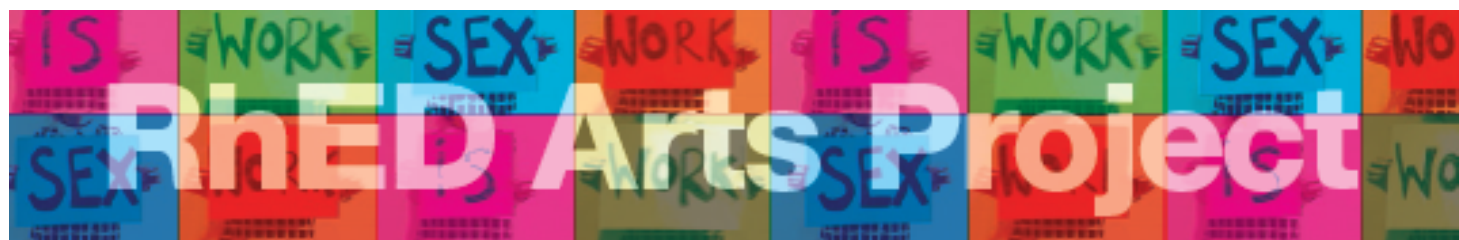
Well love
from PCV founders
Cheryl Chen
& Maryann Phoenix

Sex work is work!
No bad labels just bad laws!
[Red lips]

It's funny how us to be invited in this show and project being my art on display for so many to view and amazing work!!

Thankyou so much for sharing you and + stories with us. You are changing you on.

All the artwork is incredible, thank you so much for sharing yours.
Such a wonderful surprise! Such incredible art work, such clever artists, loved it loved it! Congrats to all involved. Joe Shirley



| Chinese

让业内人带我们 一窥性行业

2018年2月28日至3月18日在墨尔本举办了性工作者艺术展，其中心主题是呼吁实现合法化和平等权利 - 让性工作者和其他人一样在工作中有相同的权利和保护。

艺术展的奇妙之处在于给了墨尔本各地40多位性工作者发声的机会，让她们谈论她们的工作和生活 - 她们面临的挑战和回报、羞辱和歧视。

“艺术作为一种文化抵制”

Queenie Bon-Bon是澳大利亚最高性工作者组织 Scarlett Alliance（斯嘉丽联盟）的维州副会长，她在艺术展开幕式上说：

“两厢情愿的性行为被视为犯罪基本上就是不健康的、有害的，应该完全摒弃这种惩罚性观念。这些法律要我们停止我们正在做的事，而不是在更好的条件下继续做这些事。性工作者只是要和其他人一样的权利。

合法化后，社会的道德观念并不会蒸发，但从事性工作的人能够安全地工作。

在维州，凌驾于我们工作之上的框架固化了针对我们社区的羞辱和歧视，成为性工作者福祉的重大障碍。这影响到我们的人际关系、影响到我们接触健康服务、影响到我们与警察打交道的方式。

和很多被边缘化的社会群体一样，性工作者长期热衷于艺术运动，作为一种文化抵制战略的形式。和直白的信息相比，艺术能够打动更多的人而且具有更深的穿透力。

我很高兴看到人们能够通过这些奇妙的作品一窥性工作者的生活并通过业内人的介绍了解性行业的情况。重要的是我们能够创作代表我们心声的作品并对固化陈旧观念、经常试图压制我们声音的媒体表述进行反击。

通过这些艺术作品激励我们自己的生活并让更多人发出不同的声音，这是一种何等强大的力量，这些作品是对我们社区的真正投资。”

经Croakey同意后摘录

全文详见：<https://croakey.org/a-glimpse-into-the-sex-industry-from-the-people-who-work-in-it/> 9/03/2018



성산업에 종사하는 사람들을 통해 그 산업 내부 엿보기

| Korean

2018년 2월 28일부터 3월 18일까지 멜번에서 열렸던 성근로자 예술 전시회 (Sex Worker art exhibition)의 핵심은, 비범죄화와 동등한 권리 즉, 성 근로자들이 그들의 일터에서 다른 모든 근로자들이 갖고 있는 동등한 권리와 보호를 받을 수 있도록 촉구하는 것이었습니다.

그러나 전시회가 경이로웠던 점은, 그 전시회가 어떻게 멜번 전역에 걸친 40명 이상의 성근로자들로 하여금 자신들의 일과 삶 즉, 도전과 보상, 낙인과 차별에 대해 이야기할 수 있게 해주었는가 하는 데에 있었습니다.

“문화 저항으로서의 예술”

Queenie Bon-Bon은 호주 최대 성근로자 단체인 스칼렛 얼라이언스(Scarlett Alliance)의 빅토리아주 부회장입니다. Queenie Bon-Bon은 오프닝 연설에서 다음과 같이 말했습니다.

“합의된 성관계의 결과가 범죄가 되는 것은 근본적으로 폐기되어야 할 불건전하고 해로우며 징벌적인 개념입니다. 이러한 법들은 우리에게 더 나은 환경에서 일하라고 말하는 대신, 우리가 하고 있는 일을 멈추라고 말하고 있습니다. 성근로자들은 다른 모든 사람들이 갖는 동등한 권리를 바랄 뿐입니다.

비범죄화가 될 때, 이 땅의 도덕성은 증발하지 않습니다. 반면, 성노동에 관계된 사람들은 안전하게 일할 수 있게 될 것입니다.

빅토리아주에서 우리가 처한 작업 환경의 들은 지역사회에 반하는 낙인과 차별을 영속시키고, 근로자들의 복지에 큰 장애가 되는 틀입니다. 이는 우리의 대인관계 뿐만 아니라, 의료 서비스 이용 및 경찰과 교류할 수 있는 방식에까지 영향을 줍니다.

다른 많은 소외된 집단과 마찬가지로, 성근로자들에게도 문화 저항 전략의 한 형태로서 예술 운동의 긴 역사가 있습니다. 예술은 훨씬 많은 청중과 연결하고, 단순하게 정보를 주는 차원을 넘어 더 깊이 연결하는 방법입니다.

제가 이 놀라운 작업을 보는 것, 그리고 다른 사람들이 성근로자의 삶의 내면을 이해하게 되고, 성산업에 대해 아는 사람으로부터 그 산업을 잘 알게 되는 것은 큰 즐거움입니다. 우리가 고정관념을 영속시키고 때때로 우리의 목소리를 침묵시키려는 미디어의 표현에 대항하여, 진정한 목소리를 낼 수 있는 일들을 만들어내는 것이 매우 중요합니다.

우리의 삶에 영감을 줄 수 있고, 다수의 다양한 목소리를 내게 하는 이러한 단체들의 노력이 있다는 것은 큰 힘이 됩니다. 이러한 노력들이야말로 우리 지역사회의 실질적인 투자라 하겠습니다.”

크로키(Croakey)의 허가, 발췌

전체 기사는 다음을 참조하십시오.
<https://croakey.org/a-glimpse-into-the-sex-industry-from-the-people-who-work-in-it/>
9/03/2018



สะท้อนความคิดต่องานให้บริการทางเพศ จากคนที่ทำงานในอาชีพนั้น

ท่ามกลางงานนิทรรศการทางศิลปะในหัวข้อผู้ให้บริการทางเพศ ที่จัดขึ้นที่นครเมลเบิร์น ตั้งแต่วันที่ 28 กุมภาพันธ์ ถึง วันที่ 18 มีนาคม 2018 นั้น มีการรณรงค์ให้ยกเลิกโทษทางอาญาและเรียกร้องความเท่าเทียมให้กับผู้ให้บริการทางเพศ เพื่อให้มีสิทธิ์และได้รับความคุ้มครองจากการทำงานของพวกเขา เจกเช่นท์คนที่คนทั่วไปที่ฟังจะได้รับ

ความพิเศษของงานนิทรรศการนี้ คือการเป็นกระบอกเสียงของผู้ให้บริการทางเพศกว่า 40 ราย เพื่อให้ได้พูดคุยถึงเรื่องการทำงาน การใช้ชีวิต ความท้าทาย และผลตอบแทน รวมถึงเรื่องมลทินในชีวิต และการถูกเลือกปฏิบัติของพวกเขา

ศิลปะเป็นตัวช่วยข้ามกำแพงวัฒนธรรม

คุณ Queenie Bon-Bon รองประธานจาก Scarlett Alliance ซึ่งเป็นองค์กรหลักของผู้ทำงานด้านการให้บริการทางเพศออสเตรเลีย ได้กล่าวในงานเปิดตัวนิทรรศการว่า

“ผลพวงทางอาชญากรรม ที่มีต่อการมีเพศสัมพันธ์แบบสมัครใจนั้น เป็นสิ่งที่ไม่เหมาะสมและเป็นอันตราย อีกทั้งยังเป็นแนวความคิดเชิงลงโทษที่ควรถูกยกเลิกไป กฎหมายเหล่านี้ บอกให้เราหยุดทำในสิ่งที่เราทำอยู่ แต่ไม่ได้บอกให้เราดำเนินชีวิตตามเงื่อนไขที่ดีขึ้น สิ่งที่ผู้ให้บริการทางเพศต้องการคือ สิทธิเจกเช่นท์คนอื่น ๆ”

แม้การลดโทษทางอาญาจะเกิดขึ้น แต่ไม่ได้หมายความว่า จริยธรรมบนดินแผ่นดินนี้จะเหือดหายไป แต่สิ่งที่จะเกิดขึ้นก็คือ คนที่จะมาใช้บริการทางเพศจะสามารถทำได้อย่างปลอดภัย

ในรัฐวิกตอเรีย ภายใต้กรอบที่เราทำงานอยู่ ยังมีเรื่องมลทินชื่อเสียง และการเลือกปฏิบัติจากชุมชน

ของเรา อีกทั้งเรื่องอุปสรรคใหญ่ในการดูแลสุขอนามัยของผู้ให้บริการ สิ่งเหล่านี้ มีผลกระทบต่อความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างบุคคลของเรา เช่นเดียวกับการเข้าไปใช้บริการทางสาธารณสุข และวิธีการที่เราจะโต้ตอบกับฝ่ายตำรวจ

คล้ายๆ กับชนกลุ่มย่อยอื่นๆ ที่สังคมไม่ได้ให้ความสำคัญเท่าไร ผู้ให้บริการทางเพศมีประวัติอันยาวนานในการใช้ศิลปะเพื่อการรณรงค์ ในรูปแบบของกลยุทธ์ข้ามกำแพงวัฒนธรรม ศิลปะเป็นหนทางหนึ่งที่ใช้เชื่อมต่อกับผู้รับสารเป็นจำนวนมาก ทั้งยังเป็นสื่อที่ลึกซึ้งมากกว่าการให้ข้อมูลโดยตรง

ดิฉันรู้สึกปลื้มมากที่ได้เห็นผลงานที่ยอดเยี่ยมเหล่านี้ และสำหรับคนอื่นที่จะได้เข้าถึงชีวิตของผู้ให้บริการทางเพศ และได้เรียนรู้เกี่ยวกับงานบริการทางเพศจากคนวงใน จึงเป็นสิ่งสำคัญมากสำหรับพวกเราที่สามารถสร้างสรรคงานที่แสดงความเป็นตัวตนจริงของเรา ที่ตรงข้ามกับมุมมองจากสื่อที่เสนอข้อมูลในเชิงทั่วไป และพยายามทำให้เราไร้เสียงไร้ตัวตน

เป็นสิ่งที่ทรงพลังมาก เมื่อได้เห็นกลุ่มงานศิลปะเหล่านี้สามารถเป็นแรงบันดาลใจให้กับชีวิตของพวกเขาได้ และทำให้เสียงของอีกหลายหลายคนได้รับการได้ยิน ผลงานนี้เป็นการลงทุนที่แท้จริงจากชุมชนของเรา”

แหล่งที่มาได้รับการยินยอมจาก Croakey -

อ่านบทความเต็มได้จาก:

<https://croakey.org/a-glimpse-into-the-sex-industry-from-the-people-who-work-in-it/>
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