

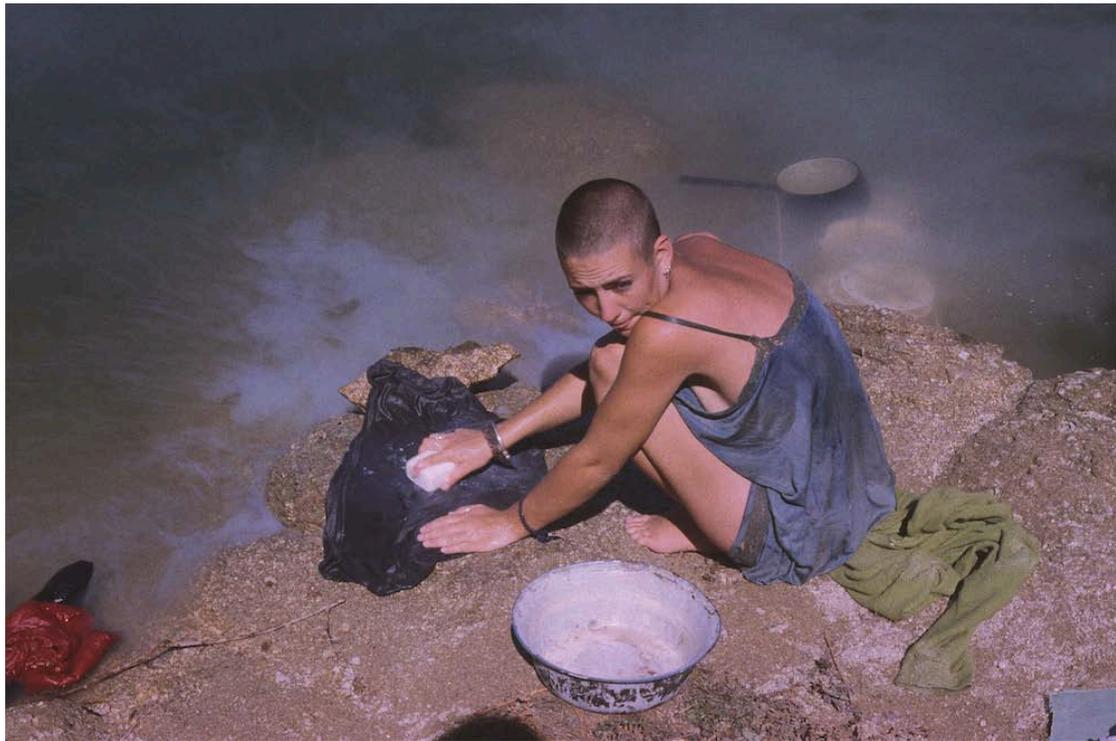
Life on the Road.

Photographs by Tom Hunter and Dave Fawcett, films by Andrew Gaston.

Upper Street Gallery, London College of Communication

6 - 26 February 2014

Opening Party and signing of *Le Crowbar* published by Here Press on 5 February 2014.



Tom Hunter, 'The Lake', 1993.

This exhibition, showing work by photographers Tom Hunter and Dave Fawcett, and filmmaker Andrew Gaston captures a remarkable moment in time, in the 1990s, when young people travelled around Europe in a variety of vehicles adapted as homes, forming transitory communities based around festivals, music and a shared rejection of the increasingly consumerist values of Western society. Travelling in decommissioned buses and vans, these new explorers constructed a vision of a kind of utopia, which is now embedded in our collective memory of the 1990s. From Hunter's documentary of everyday life on the road, to Fawcett's meticulous record of traveller buses, and Gaston's elegaic footage of parties, this exhibition, which is an integral part of UAL Green Week, is both celebration and memorial.

Tom Hunter

...and with just a flyer from Steve Bedlam, stating "Hostomice, It's Out There... The Tekno Travellers' Holiday Destination Of The Year" as directions, we head off to Europe.' (Tom Hunter, 2013)

In 1995 Tom Hunter set off from a squatted street in Hackney with a group of friends in an old double decker bus, loaded with muesli, Sosmix, baby-foot table and a sound system. Fuelled by selling egg butties, veggie burgers and beer, their journey took them through folk festivals in France, teknivals in Czech Republic, hippie gatherings in Austria and beach parties in Spain. Le Crowbar Café became an oasis for a nomadic party community hungry for all night food and a break from hardcore techno.

Hunter's series, 'Le Crowbar', shown at LCC for the first time, paints a vivid picture of friends on a journey, exploring new horizons and ways of living on the road, in the wake of the introduction of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

Dave Fawcett

'Sadly a large part of this activity has become transformed into a nostalgic archive for a lifestyle that has largely disappeared from the highways & byways of England.' (Dave Fawcett, 2013)

Dave Fawcett's archive of converted buses and trucks is a unique photographic record which formed the basis for his 'Traveller Homes' website. His topographic studies record a segment of English social history, which still struggles to survive.

Since graduating from Leicester University in 1984 'Traveller' Dave Fawcett has embraced the bender lifestyle. His first 'mobile home' was an ex-British Telecom Bedford TK. In 1992 he bought a 1966 Albion Chieftain furniture lorry and drove it on a one-way trip to Europe. He survives as a fruit picker during the summer months and still lives on his bus.

Andrew Gaston

'So a crowd of us climbed into my girlfriend's bus (which she'd christened 'Phoebus Apollo' and later painted with snake scales) and set off for Europe, where the laws were more lax. We danced under the stars, passed out under bars and baked cakes whilst cruising down the autobahn.' (Andrew Gaston, 2013)

Andrew Gaston is a video artist who used customised CCTV equipment to document a figure '8' journey to Europe, and various free parties between 1994-1997. 'The Apollo Tapes' records the energy and the times of a journey that was often intertwined with 'Crowbar'.

Life on the Road is a Photography and the Archive Research Centre project, made in partnership with the UAL London College of Communication as part of Green Week, 2014. The project demonstrates PARC's ongoing interest in contemporary archives and the counterculture and follows on from its recent work with the archives of Daniel Meadows, Stuart Griffiths and Marjolaine Ryley. The exhibition arose out of a collaboration between two UAL Professors, Val Williams and Tom Hunter, has been co-curated by them and organised by Robin Silas Christian.

Sponsored by The Wilson Centre for Photography.

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