



## This is a Leeds Arts University Repository copy of: Inconvenient Bodies

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### Abstract

Inconvenient Bodies was an exhibition conceived and created specifically for Hošek Contemporary, a gallery in a converted goods barge.

**Research Process:** The work consisted of three large chiffon panels printed with images of disused ladies' public toilets from Manchester, Brighouse and Scarborough. The panels were held up by wooden washing poles on satin rope, and accompanied by thirty small plywood and copper cut-outs of the 'ladies' symbol often found on toilet doors. The research develops Chambers' interest in the accessibility (or not) of public toilets explored in her performance work *Urinary Leash* – materialising the precarity of bodies that transgress categorisation. This work has been conceptualised in relation to the feminisation of migratory labour and to the labour of the woman artist.

**Research Insights:** Inconvenient Bodies is an example of a strategy for producing sculptural works small or compact enough so that they can be transported in the hold of a plane, as a nomadic feral art practice. This strategy highlights the work that artists do beyond the confines of the white cube gallery space. The production of this series of works prompted Chambers' further enquiry into the history of women's public toilets in the UK, and has led into ongoing documentation of public toilet facilities across the UK and in Europe. The findings of this investigation are that women's public toilets in the UK (established nearly a century after similar facilities for men) have been in steep decline for several decades, unlike their European counterparts. Currently, Chambers has documented 47 women's public toilets.

**Dissemination:** The work was exhibited at Hošek Contemporary, Berlin, Germany, 5 – 9 April 2023.

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# Inconvenient Bodies

Hošek Contemporary, Berlin

Paula Chambers

Digitally printed chiffon panels, wooden washing poles, satin rope, plywood, copper leaf, copper foil





## *Inconvenient Bodies*

Hošek Contemporary, Berlin, 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2023

An installation of sculptural works by Paula Chambers

### **Exhibition Statement**

The installation, *Inconvenient Bodies* brings attention to those with bodies that have become socially inconvenient, not just the old, the ill, or the infirm, but also those whose bodies do not comfortably fit the men/women categories as displayed on the signs outside public toilets. There are also those whose bodily functions are deemed shameful, the fear of 'bleeding through' when menstruation is particularly heavy, the countless homeless who need access to public facilities in which to wash, sex workers, migrants, the list goes on. The installation *Inconvenient Bodies* develops ideas and material processes worked with previously. Three chiffon panels printed with images of women's public toilets in very poor condition are supported on a line of pink satin rope by six wooden washing line props, sanded and waxed to a high finish, like modernist designer furniture. A hoard of small copper coated plywood cut-outs of 'ladies' also inhabit the gallery space, these little objects could be easily overlooked, like those with bodies deemed inconvenient by society and culture.







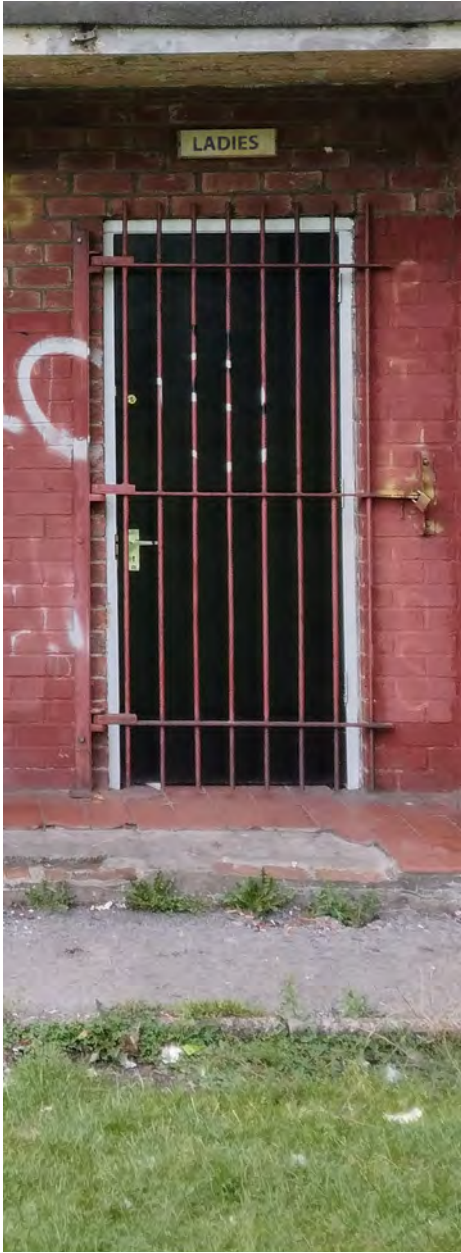






LADIES





The original images of ladies public toilets that I had printed onto chiffon for the panels exhibited as part of *Inconvenient Bodies*. These images were taken in Manchester, Brighouse and Scarborough.













[2023-2022](#)

[2021-2020](#)

[2019-2018](#)

[2017-2016](#)



## Paula Chambers - Inconvenient Bodies

Opening reception : Thursday April 6, 2023 at 7 pm

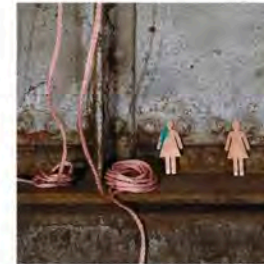


## Öykü Özgencil - In Her Shoes

Opening reception : Friday April 14, 2023 at 7 pm  
April 14-22, 2023

[Curatorial text](#)

[Facebook Gallery](#)



## Paula Chambers - Inconvenient Bodies

Opening reception : Thursday April 6, 2023 at 7 pm  
April 5-8, 2023

[Curatorial Text](#)

[Facebook Gallery](#)



## Patricia Sandonis - The Very Important, The In Between, The Monolith

Opening reception : Friday March 10, 2023 at 7 pm  
March 10-25, 2023

[Curatorial text](#)

[Facebook Gallery](#)

<https://www.hosekcontemporary.com/exhibitions>