

# THE COMRADES THEY WERE BRAVE

WE SALUTE YOU!

44 GRS Gallery // 44 Great Russell Street // London // WC1B 3JL  
18 March - 10 April 2022 // Admission Free  
Private View // 6-9pm // Thursday 17 March



**London, UK:** This exhibition brings together seven contemporary artists who all engage in defiance. Conceived as an homage to Edith Garrud (1872-1971), Jiu-jitsu martial arts teacher to the suffragettes, it explores the theme of fighting for a cause. A programme of talks, readings, music, and screenings will accompany the show, in this festival for the valiant and the scamps. **THE COMRADES THEY WERE BRAVE** runs at **44 GRS Gallery** in Bloomsbury from 18 March until 10 April 2022 and admission is free.

In 1909, in response to increasing physical abuse by the police and opponents to their campaign for women's right to vote, Edith Garrud began training the suffragettes in self-defence. Eventually she set up The Suffragette Bodyguard Unit, also called The Amazons or The Suffrajitsu by the press, dedicated to protecting Mrs Pankhurst and the other leaders of the movement from arrest and assault.

Artists **Deborah Tchoudjino**, **Garth Gratrix**, **Hatty Buchanan**, **Iain Hales**, **Jillian Knipe**, and **Laura Moreton-Griffiths** have been invited to join **Cecilia Sjöholm** to address questions such as: can we be our own bodyguards? To what level are we willing to make sacrifices? Do we fight openly in public, or do we use smokescreens and camouflage as a means of survival? Presenting work across a range of media with writing, the exhibition also interrogates the relationship between the private and the public.

Curated by Cecilia Sjöholm.

With thanks to Harold Offeh and Morgan Quaintance for guidance.

Catalogue essay by Chris Fite-Wassalik.

Supported by Arts Council England.

#### **LISTINGS INFORMATION**

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18 March – 10 April 2022

Open daily 12.00 – 17.00 // Admission Free

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