



QUEER
THE
PIER

LGBTIQ+ Roma, Gypsy &
Traveller

A Free Zine to challenge
stereotypes

PLEASE TAKE & READ!

Editor: Lisa Hinkins

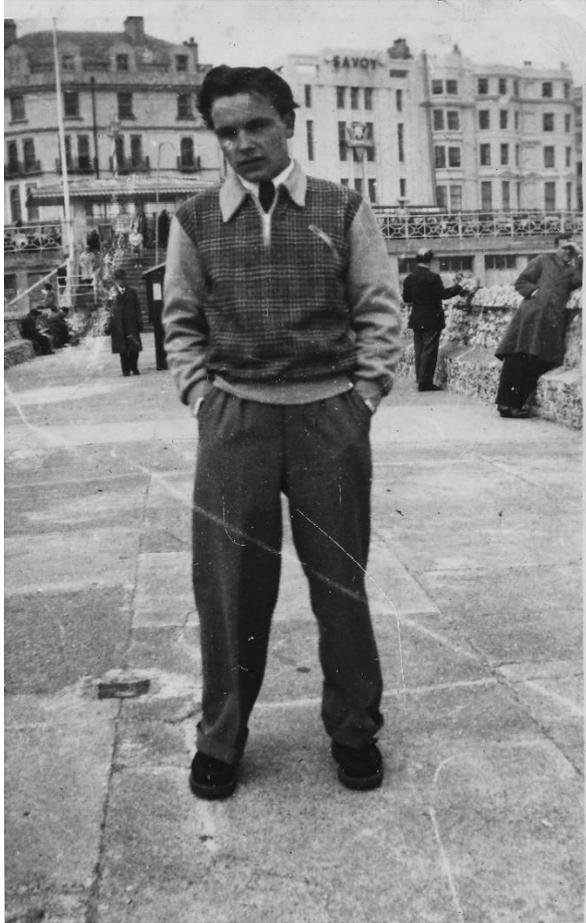
Contributors:

Delaine Le Bas

Lois Brookes-Jones

Dr Lucie Fremlova and Roma Artists





“be yourself [...] love should be unconditional”

Delaine Le Bas, acclaimed Roma Artist dedicates her new Fortune Telling Cards to her Uncle

My Uncle Eddie moved to Brighton in the mid-1960s and this is where I visited him and his partner Peter from being a very small child with my Nan. The visits were often as we only lived in Worthing. We also visited my Nan’s cousin “Kay,” who lived in Brighton with his partner Maurice.

The photograph of my Uncle Eddie on the seafront near the pier is much earlier than when he eventually moved to the city. Their lives had not been easy being Romani and Gay, but they taught me many things the most important ones being to be yourself and that love should be unconditional.

My Uncle Eddie sadly died on Valentine’s Day 2017, I miss him very much as his support throughout my whole life and artistic career was a powerful force especially at my darkest times, but the beauty of his unconditional love for me is always with me. In a world where creating division and peddling hate seems prevalent, lets spread some beauty out there into the world.



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“Gypsiness” is a term to describe the phenomenon of dissociation where over time Gypsy identity becomes abstracted and separated from the people themselves. Through images and literature, the dominant culture dictates the representation of a marginal group, in this case the British Gypsies.

The above image created by LGBTIQ+ Roma artists plays on these stereotypes; the vardo (caravan), what a Roma or Gypsy wears and access to knowledge. The artists are sat on the Romani flag and the Rainbow flag.

The Gypsy as Romantic and bohemian was still being pursued in the first two decades of the twentieth century. It is evident in works by painter Sir Alfred Munnings (1878-1959) of British Gypsies. *Hannah Gluckstein Dressed as a Gypsy* was drawn by Munnings in 1916. Gluck (represented in our exhibition) is depicted in Roma dress, smoking a tiny pipe. This image was created before Gluck’s sartorial transformation.

The writer Vita Sackville-West (1892-1962), viewed Spanish Romany women as representations of liberation, excitement and danger and served as a symbol for lesbianism in her writing. She even invented Romany ancestry for herself on her Spanish side of her family as explanation of her bohemian behaviour due to her alleged “Gypsy” descent.



Sir Alfred Munnings. *Hannah Gluckstein as a Gypsy (or Hannah Gluckstein on a Hillside)* 1916. Lisa Hinkins’ own photograph.

Words Lisa Hinkins

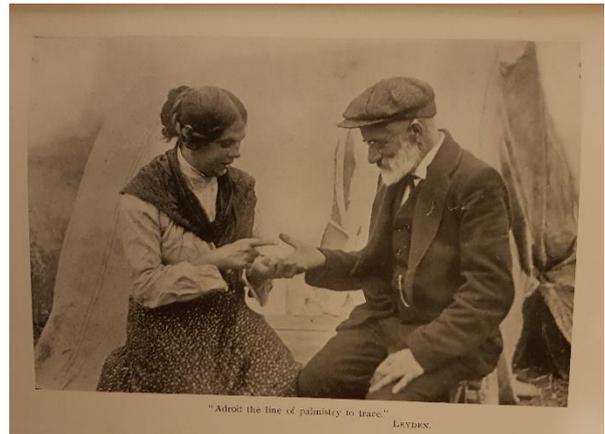
Family Fortune by Lisa Hinkins

Your fortune postcard appears to have been created in a photographic studio, as indicated by the painted background. The fortune teller is dressed in clothes that appear finer than any that many female Gypsies could afford.

She is displayed in a subservient sitting arrangement with her eyes looking upwards towards the client who in an act of superiority is stood above her, while she faces directly to the camera lens. It displays the repetition of a single interpretation of a fantasy version of the Gypsy female fortune teller trope, exploited for commercial gain as part of the mass circulation of visual culture in the Victorian and Edwardian period for bourgeoisie consumption.



Your fortune. Circa early 20th Century. Coloured photograph postcard. English unknown photographer. Private Collection. ©Look and Learn. Valerie Jackson Harris Collection. Bridgeman Images



Francis R Hinkins. *Adroit the line of palmistry to trace.* c1915. L-R: Rhoda Wells and Frank Hinkins.

From the book *Romany Life* by Frank Cutriss (London: Mills & Boons, 1915) b/w photograph.

My great, great-grandfather Frank Hinkins was an illustrator and photographer. With his son Ralph their book *Romany Life* (1915) recounted the years of communing with Gypsies from the New Forest, Hampshire. Ralph married a young Romany woman, Rhoda Wells (1897-1982) bringing together a mix of Gorgio (non-Gypsy) with Tatchey Romany (pure blood Gypsy). Rhoda became a settled Gypsy creating a home with Ralph in Sussex.

My 'Little Nanny' Rhoda is shown with Frank in less sumptuous surroundings reading his palm than the creation in *Your fortune*. Rhoda and my great Auntie Thelma ensured a family archive was kept. Rhoda hated the stereotyping of Romany people.

Gypsy Fortune Telling Cards by Delaine Le Bas

Within Polari there are a number of Romani words as well as Cant and Argot, these words I recognise as being part of my own language growing up. So, choosing from these I decided to add the word Rinkeni – Beautiful in Romani. For example, the word Gajo in Romani is used as a negative term to describe anyone who is not one of the community - “others” but are not all of us on the outside “others” and is there not a beauty in being “other”?

I want to send a positive message out there to whoever receives the cards. Fortune Telling is an intimate form of communication between people, it requires close contact physically and mentally in its true form.

Therefore I do not wish to be sending anything other than a positive message especially to those who I do not know, for me in particular coming from such a demonised community I refuse to respond in a negative way and use language within my work to reclaim the negative into positive, this transforms the energy.

Our language has a history like us that reaches far back into time, which as we know we all need to claim our histories in order to establish the fact that we have always been here.



Delaine Le Bas responded to this Victorian automaton (above) in a museum workshop. It perpetuated a stereotype of Roma culture, including the misspelling of “Gipsy” with an ‘i’ and not a ‘y.’

ROMANI	ENGLISH
Rinkeni Ken	Beautiful House
Rinkeni Lav	Beautiful Word
Rinkeni Minge	Beautiful Vagina
Rinkeni	Beautiful
Rinkeni Chant	Beautiful Song
Rinkeni Gajos	Beautiful Outsiders/Others
Rinkeni Gillies	Beautiful Women
Rinkeni Mui	Beautiful Face/Mouth
Rinkeni Nawks	Beautiful Breasts
Rinkeni Chavi	Beautiful Child/Friend
Rinkeni Clobber	Beautiful Clothes



One of Delaine Le Bas’ Fortune Telling Cards



These powerful images break down and challenge the dominant representation of LGBTIQ Roma. Created during a one-week workshop held in Brighton by Dr Lucie Fremlova, talented LGBTIQ Roma Artists produced these images.

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**Poem especially written for this Zine by Roma
Poet Lois Brookes-Jones**

Valentine's Day

When I listen to her rokker,
In my Indian rotya,
I feel reborn,
Red ribbon tied around my pinkie,
Fresh to a world that hears her sing without
melody,
Venus holds my breath in a cup of sand,
Waiting for the blood rouging in my cheeks to
settle its shores,
Tongues locked between the islands of Romanes
and Gammon,
And the North-South divide,
I stand at Liverpool Lime Street with my scran and
shrapnel,
Idle as Euston so briefly passes,
Wondering if she saw it,
On its metal wheels of vardo,
As 3am licks my neck with fatigue,
I write symbols onto card for February,
Willing Venus' kindness of exhale,
How I hope that breeze keeps my favour,
So, I can sit as a girl who likes a girl,
A Romani and a Mincéir,
Huddled over cups of cocoa and coffee,
Trekking across our similar islands with words,
To meet and tie those ribbons in our hair,

She will not know of these tables, chairs, and
cafetières,
The in-between world of bodies suspended in the
imagination of my hope,
Until the second month envelope arrives,
Stating its constitution



Francis R Hinkins. *Maiden Meditation*. c1915. From
the book *Romany Life* by Frank Cutriss (London:
Mills & Boons, 1915) b/w photograph.

OUTREACH INFORMATION

Friends, Families and Travellers is a leading national charity that works on behalf of all Gypsies, Roma and Travellers regardless of ethnicity, culture or background. We can provide confidential advice, information and support to people from LGBT+ communities.

Open Monday to Friday 10am – 4.30pm
on 01273 234777

www.gypsy-traveller.org



Traveller Pride as a community we are empowering each other to be out in the world, to be proud of who we are and to support each other in as many ways as we can, to work together, to collaborate, to share.

www.lgbttravellerpride

