

# HOMOCULT HISTORY

**HOMOCULT** was formed in 1990 by a small group of people with varying skills ranging from those holding Degrees in Art, to people who had never expressed themselves through Art before.

What we had in common was that we all shared the experience of having come from low class backgrounds and a powerful desire to explore own own experiences of how we felt our personalities had been moulded by those backgrounds, especially as regards to our sexuality, this being perhaps the most fundamental aspect of our identities, yet at the same time one of the least talked about . After many get together and brain storming sessions we began to produce quite a bulk of material ranging from experiences such as the way the Lesbian and Gay commercial scene had treated some of us ,how we felt about our separation from families and backgrounds to some quite painful personal exploration into abuse that we had suffered.

Interest was shown in what we were achieving and we were asked to contribute work to magazines such as **SCENE OUT**, Manchester's Lesbian and Gay monthly, the London weekly **CAPITAL GAY**, and the socialist Arts magazine **ROUGE**, as well as being asked to produce work to promote events, posters flyers slides etc.

In 1991 the editor of Scene Out offered us the opportunity of producing a book of our collected work to date and **QUEER WITH CLASS** the first book of Homocult was released which opened Homocult up to a much wider audience, gaining us a world wide reputation with interest and support coming from as far away as the **USA** and **Australia**, and with established Artists such as **Derek Jarman** and **Gilbert and George** making contact with us. More importantly to us we received a tremendous amount of feedback from ordinary isolated people living all over, which enabled us to form a mailing network which now totals over 300 people.

# AIMS/ INTENTIONS

## WE RECOGNISE THAT ALL WORKING CLASS SEXUALITY IS CONTROLLED

1 Our main aim is **to enable us as working class people** the opportunity, through artistic processes **to explore our sexuality.**

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2 To create a **supportive therapeutic** and self **counselling** framework in which we can discuss /share our personal experiences and histories, both of our backgrounds and attitudes to our sexuality.

3 To create a sense of pride in ourselves as working people of our bodies and minds, identity and value, **TO EMPOWER.**

4 To question standard language and attitudes. To **open up debate.**

5 To **challenge bigoted narrow- minded and lazy views.** Including the more subtle bigotries that appear to be liberating, such as the notion of minority and minority rights.

6 To challenge the view that sexuality in its self equals people. As in the limiting, cash based culture of the so called Gay movement, which assumes that all its '*members*' have the same values, experiences, expectations and most of all income.

7 To **pass on skills.**

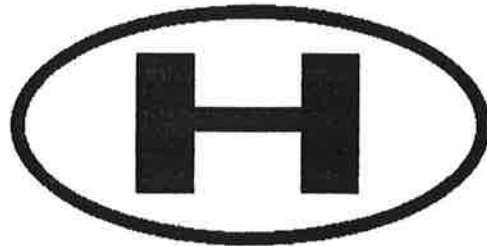
8 To act as a **network** for our members.

9 To understand the depths of pain that can accompany peoples sexual histories and to understand the power of the likes of humour as an aid in exploring this pain and anger.

We try to create a very non moralising, open, friendly, warm and supportive atmosphere in which to nurture confidence in our members. Enabling them to feel at ease about this sometimes difficult, yet extremely important part of their lives.

We don't therefore attempt to limit the understanding or language of individuals work and have a board canvas on which they can explore. However we do have a very firm base from which we operate. Which is that although we recognise the pain people are in, as a group we do not support individual work who's aim is to cause harm to other working people simply on the grounds of sex, race, sexuality or ability.

# CONSTITUTION



**HOMOCULT**

**HOMOCULT** IS AN ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL NETWORK SET UP TO ENCOURAGE WORKING CLASS PEOPLES TO EXPRESS THEIR EXPERIENCES AND FEELINGS TOWARDS THEIR CLASS AND SEXUALITY IN AN ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE WAY.

**MEMBERSHIP IS FREE**

**HOMOCULT** IS OPEN TO ALL WORKING CLASS PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF SEXUALITY, SEX, RACE, ABILITY OR SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE, AND ACTIVELY ENCOURAGES THE VOICES OF THE MOST OPPRESSED OF OUR CLASS.

WE RECOGNISE THE PROBLEMS FACED BY OUR MEMBERS AS REGARDS HARASSMENT AND PERSONAL INTIMIDATION.

WE OPERATE UNDER THE CHOSEN TITLE OF **HOMOCULT**. THE RIGHT OF MEMBERS WHO WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS WILL BE RESPECTED

**HOMOCULT** SHALL ELECT FROM AMONGST ITS MEMBERS THE FOLLOWING **CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY AND TREASURER**, WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OFFICIAL AND FINANCIAL RUNNING OF **HOMOCULT**. IT WILL BE THEIR DUTY TO KEEP ALL MEMBERS AWARE OF MEETINGS/EVENTS ETC, AND NOTIFY THE MEMBERSHIP OF ANY SPENDING OR DECISIONS WHICH NEED TO BE MADE.

A BANK ACCOUNT SHALL BE OPENED IN THE NAME OF **HOMOCULT** AND THERE WILL BE TWO SIGNATORIES THE TREASURER AND ONE OTHER.

# other groups /organisations homocult have worked with

Printing of posters/flyers and layouts with **HULME ARTS**. Billboard designs on show at the Church of the Assention Hulme Manchester for **GAIA**. Hordings for **WORK FOR CHANGE** and **HOMES FOR CHANGE** Hulme. Artwork for the Hulme **PIG**. Regular contributions to **SCENE OUT**, (Lesbian and Gay magazine for the North). Posters for **LESBIAN AND GAY SUPPORT THE MINERS**. Artwork for **THE FOOTBALL PINK**, (National Gay Football supporters magazine based in Manchester). Weekly contributions to **CAPITAL GAY**, (LONDON'S gay newspaper) Co-organised **ATTITUDE** at the Manchester Academy 1991 with **A LITTLE BIT GINGER**, (organisers of flesh at the hacienda). Homocult regularly contribute work to **UNDERGROUND** (free newspaper). **SUBWAY**, **GRAND CENTRAL STATION P.H.** and **OSCARS** bar, housed several homocult nights. Joint organised benefit events with **121 CENTRE**, Brixton London, Produced the publicity for the launch event of Manchester University Lesbian and Gay Society. Articals for **ROUGE**, (socialist lesbian and gay magazine). Fanzine for **GAY SWEATSHOP'S** production, **IN YOUR FACE**, to be performed at **QUEER UP NORTH**, Manchester May 94.

Homocult has also received interest from such respected artists as **GILBERT AND GEORGE** and the late **DEREK JARMAN**, who included **QUEER WITH CLASS** the first book of Homocult amongst his 10 favourite books and gave a reading from it on radio 4's book programme. Homocult is amongst the founder members of **QUEERCORE** and has contacts with the music and zine culture in the USA, and also worked with the band **CHUMBAWUMBA**. and is now planning a major exhibition with the **MILCH GALLERY**, Soho London, and a second book, to be published by **AK press**, Scotland.