

## Celebrating Women in Photography Today

# E.L.S.C. FILES

## Julie Cook

A collaborative project with the East London Strippers Collective evidences the activism of a group of six women, juxtaposing the language of photographic portraiture with other ephemera. The aim of the collective is to challenge stigma and stereotypes that are linked to the industry, question their changing conditions of work and oppose the closure of their historic work environments. They see themselves as victims, but not in the work that they do, but the lack of regulation and recognition of their work as 'work'; the social role that they play in society and themselves as creative individuals. The larger body of work is presented as an artists' book – six individual files that challenge the notion of 'progress' and reference the format of the police file.

*Julie Cook (b.St Albans, Herts) was based in London but now lives and works in Pontypridd, Wales and is an artist whose work is photography based. Cook has consistently engaged with issues of gender and voyeurism within personal and public spaces of the city. Much of the work is collaborative in the making and also in its outcomes. Julie Cook has focused on the artists' book as resolution to her work; including the award winning Baby Oil and Ice - Striptease in East London, the Las Vegas Diaries, Some Las Vegas Strip Clubs, Beauties of Today, Olympia Moments Ltd and the E.L.S.C. FILES. The work has been exhibited internationally and is part of private and public collections including the V&A book collection. Julie Cook's work was included in a group show, Paris Texas, with Ed Ruscha and Robert Rauschenberg in Dallas (2016).*

### MORE INFO

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