

The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale Exhibition

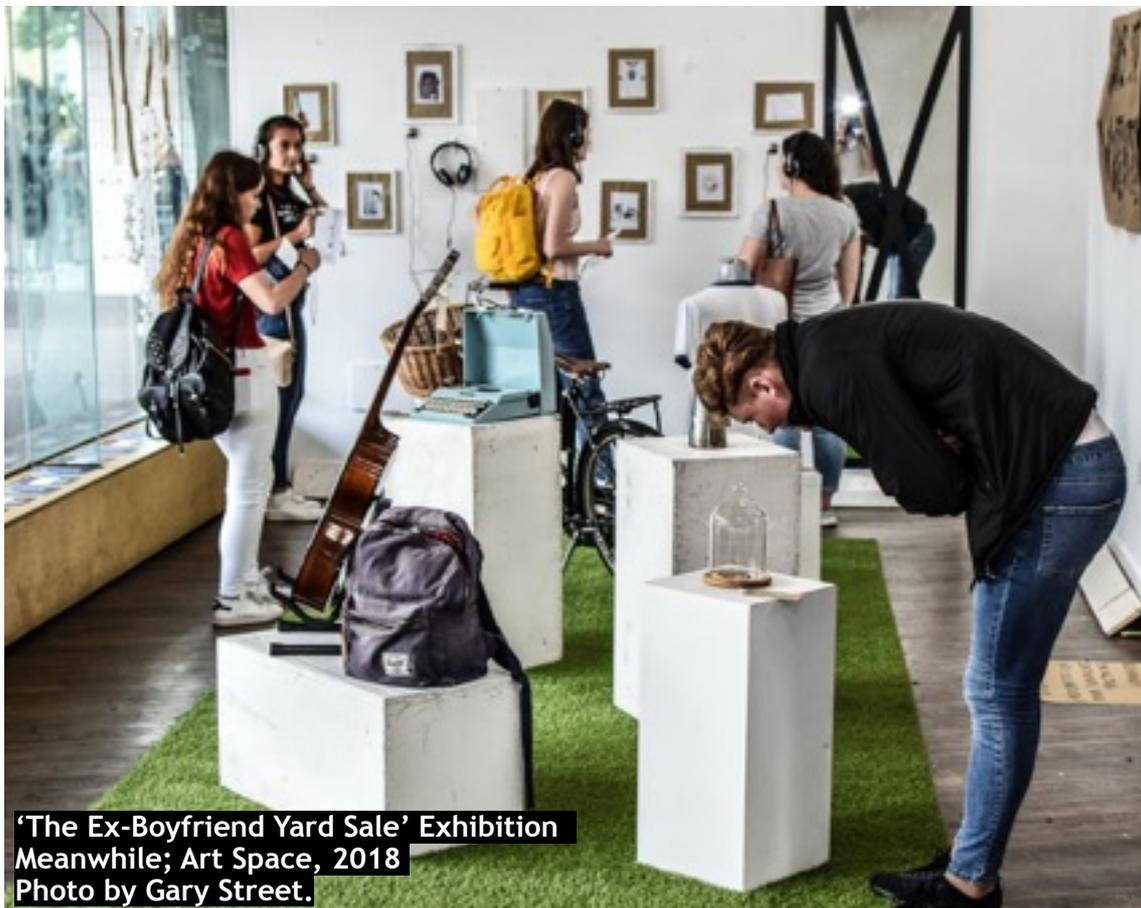
**AN INTERACTIVE INSTALLATION ABOUT THE COST OF LOVE
BY HALEY MCGEE**

The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale Exhibition is an interactive installation about the cost of love. It invites the public to engage in questions around love and money, relationships and numbers and the ways in which we quantify love and its inherent value in their own lives.

The project is inspired by a phone conversation Haley had with visa. She was in debt and found herself promising to pay off a credit card bill by having a yard sale. Immediately looking around her home, she realised the only objects that she owned worth enough to sell, were gifts from ex-boyfriends. This left her asking big questions: How do we value the things we're left with after a relationship ends, given all the ways we invested in the relationship, not just money but time and emotion? Can we give these things a price that accurately reflects all the ways we paid for them? Can we turn sentimental value into cold, hard cash? Was it worth it?

THE INSTALLATION

The gallery space is a playful, curated mash-up of an art gallery, auction house and yard sale, embodying the tension of how we ascribe value to objects in different settings. A large sign reading 'THE EX-BOYFRIEND YARD SALE' invites viewers into the space. When they first enter they're greeted with a large scroll, filled with questions about how love and money co-exist in their lives. The installation is designed in such a way to allow for different depths of engagement, which makes it appropriate for many different spaces and accessible to a wide range of viewers.



**'The Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale' Exhibition
Meanwhile; Art Space, 2018
Photo by Gary Street.**

The floor is covered with fake grass, and eight objects given to Haley by her exes, are displayed on white plinths accompanied by price tags with emotional context and 'relationship stats.' Viewers can also listen to audio-recordings of Haley interviewing her exes and experts about the objects in question. With this in mind, viewers are invited to appraise these objects.

In another section of the exhibition, people are invited to contribute any of their own stories, ideas and data about what love has cost them. The contributions are written down on post-its and stuck to the wall. At the end of the week the wall is covered with illuminating, moving and hilarious anonymous responses. This becomes a work of art unto itself. All of these contributions are collected, and analysed by a team of artists and mathematicians in order to create a formula for the cost of love, and a larger archive of the interplay between love and money across different cities.

The final section of the exhibition has to do with the value of music to a broken heart. People are asked to contribute the song they listened to on-repeat when going through their biggest heartbreaks. These songs are added to The Broken Heart Playlist, which plays throughout the exhibition and also exists online (472 songs and counting).

FACTS & FIGURES

- 2 people on the road
- Running time: maximum per day 5-6 hours
- Language: any
- Performance space
 - Gallery/pop-up space, possibly a shop front
 - Approx. 50 Sqm
 - Hanging space
 - Access to toilet and running water
 - Ideal the space will have large windows & walls painted white or a neutral colour
- Freight: a small van to carry...
 - 8 plinths
 - roll of Astroturf
 - 8 earphones, 8 iPods
 - Rolls of paper
 - 8 framed photographs
- Venue to provide 2 chairs/stools & 2 tables



MEDIA

To watch a video about the pilot Exhibition, please visit: <https://vimeo.com/284636025>

CONTACT

- Contact Haley directly: haley.mcgee@me.com
- For further information, press images and to arrange interviews: Grace Nicol, Communications Manager, Upright Fools +44 7585331590 projects@uprightfools.com

ABOUT HALEY MCGEE

Haley McGee is a solo performer, theatre-maker, actor, writer and voiceover artist, originally from Canada, now based in London, UK.

Haley's performance is inherently cross-disciplinary, smashing together performance traditions and talking directly to audience. Drawing on her diverse training and experience, her work spans storytelling, clown, improv, stand up, dance and live-art. Her latest project, the 'Ex-Boyfriend Yard Sale' takes this to an exciting new scale not only uniquely combining different performance styles but transcending disciplinary boundaries, questioning whether it is possible to marry logic and art.

The foundational elements of her work are big questions that break those taken-for-granted silences that keep us isolated. Running through this, is a commitment to a playful combination of hilarity and despair that invites audiences to participate in their own introspection in an open and ultimately enjoyable and supportive environment.

For more information about Haley and her work, please visit: <http://www.haleymcgee.ca/>

