



For the Holden Gallery's Interruptions series, Chris Alton will be working with a group of students over the course of several months (November 2021 - March 2022) to develop a project (outlined below):

**In the dark times. Will there also be singing?
Yes, there will also be singing. About the dark times.**
(Bertolt Brecht, 1939)

What does a song mean? It depends who's singing it, how, and where.

In 1979 Robert Hazard penned Girls Just Wanna Have Fun whilst lying in a motel bath. The song told of a woman-obsessed lothario; fortunately it never made it past the demo reel. Four years later, Cyndi Lauper – having found the lyrics of the original to be too misogynistic - switched the line: “All my girls have got to walk in the sun,” to “I want to be the one to walk in the sun,” and released it as her first major single. The track went on to gain recognition as a feminist anthem with Lauper describing it as a song, “for all the women around the world to remember our power”.

Karaoke in the Dark Times is a project about remembering our power in dark times; we might even find some hope along the way. We'll work together as a group across a series of sessions exploring our relationship(s) to popular music; reworking songs to 'sing' about what matters to us.

The project will conclude with an artist-karaoke-night. Students are invited to contribute to the night through; performing, screening videos, set design, poster making, and planning/producing the overall event in collaboration with Chris.

This is a call out for participants which is open to all BA and MA students at Manchester School of Art. For information on how to join us for the first meeting on **Wednesday 10th November**, please contact Zoe Watson, Curator of the Holden Gallery (z.watson@mmu.ac.uk) *Later meeting dates: Wednesday 1st December and Wednesday 12th January*