

Let's Have a Kiki

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They may say talk is cheap but honey, there's nothing richer than kicking back and spilling the tea. Now, galleries are often treated as spaces where talking should be minimal and what talking there is should be responsive to the work within them. However, there's no rule on this (at least not one I'm aware of) and maybe they're actually the perfect places to talk about life and everything in it. In fact, the main thing I personally love about a glitzy private view at a gallery is the opportunity to catch up with friends and get to know new people, so maybe it's worth making this the norm. As a queer person I have found conversation to be the best way to break down problematic preconceptions, but as an anxious person I've found it hard to initiate this situation.

My work in this show was informed by a workshop I ran on Trans and Queer Visibility, which taught me so much about myself and other LGBTQIA+ people around me. I want to create this opportunity for more people, and I think that whilst you're in the comfort of the gallery there's no better time. So, I'm gonna take this opportunity to enlist you in helping me make the gallery a comfortable space to get to know like-minded people and maybe learn a bit about LGBTQIA+ issues. Here's a series of questions and provocations, think of these as prompts to start a conversation with someone (even if it's someone you don't know that well) and have a real good Kiki.

Who would you be for 'snatch game'* and why?

What do you think shapes your identity?

**FYI on the off chance you're not sure, 'snatch game' is a challenge in RuPaul's Drag Race where drag queens impersonate celebrities, so who would you impersonate?*

When were you first aware of LGBTQIA+ people?

What do you think when you hear 'visibility'?

What do you think of the way LGBTQIA+ people are represented in the media, is it realistic?

Now you've had a bit more time to think about it, are you sure about your 'snatch game' choice?

How was that? What effect do you think it had on being in the gallery? Have a think about what you learned about each other and anything maybe you learned about yourself and if it went really well go and grab a coffee and carry on spilling that tea (if that is the case you probably stopped reading this long ago tbh).

Thanks for indulging me in this little activity, let's talk soon :) R xxx