



# WE WILL WORK WITH YOU

WELLINGTON  
MEDIA  
COLLECTIVE  
1978-1998

**12 September – 24 October 2014**  
**ST PAUL St Galleries One and Two**

**An exhibition initiated by Adam Art Gallery Te Pataka Toi  
in collaboration with the Wellington Media Collective.**

Established in 1978, the Wellington Media Collective (WMC) came together under the banner 'we will work with you – not for you'. The co-operative of graphic designers, printers, photographers and their friends saw sharing their skills in graphic design and communication as a way to give political voice to community groups and individuals across a spectrum of cultural issues and campaigns for social justice. Over two decades they worked with clients ranging from trade unions to arts and activist organisations, with involvement in all the major political movements of the era, including the fight for a nuclear free New Zealand, for tino rangatiratanga, women's rights, employment issues, and an end to apartheid in South Africa.

This exhibition considers the breadth WMC's archive – original ephemera spanning posters, print publications, magazines and flyers, as well as oral histories – as offering a unique history of public culture in Wellington and New Zealand. The collected work articulates the intersection of highly politicised design with social activism and a wider cultural history of art and performance. This is set against a background of shifting economic conditions, and the evolution of print technologies, networks of distribution and communication.

ST PAUL St Gallery hosts the second public outing of this exhibition. Developed by the Adam Art Gallery, it was originally shown in Wellington in 2012. This iteration has been approached as an opportunity not only to share the material with a wider audience, but as a platform for a series of public programmes that connect the work of the Collective with the university gallery's role as 'critic and conscience of society', and current events with a particular focus on the lead up to the national election day on 20 September.

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**All events free and all welcome:**

## **WMC t-shirt printing workshop**

**13 September 12-4pm**

Bring and print your own shirt or fabric. Come by the Gallery on Saturday afternoon to screen print alongside members of the Wellington Media Collective.

## **RockEnrol: We Will Work With You**

**18 September 6-9pm**

Crowdsourcing ideas for a thriving New Zealand and holding decision makers accountable, this is a special event hosted in collaboration with RockEnrol NZ.

## **Floortalk with Chris McBride and Philip Kelly**

**9 October, 5.30pm**

An opportunity to hear from Wellington Media Collective members Chris McBride and Philip Kelly about the history and significance of these works, and the development of the exhibition.

## **AudioCulture and WMC present: NZ Music & Activism 1978-1998**

**14 October, 6-9pm**

Simon Grigg, Creative Director of the AudioCulture website and Philip Kelly of Wellington Media Collective present an evening of New Zealand music that charts the turbulent times of the WMC's existence, drawing parallels between the output of the Collective and NZ music of the period. This event is part of Art Week ([artweekauckland.co.nz](http://artweekauckland.co.nz)).

## **Collectivism Then and Now**

**23 October, 5.30pm**

Members of the Wellington Media Collective are joined by representatives from collectives Local Time, Cut Collective and D.A.N.C.E Art Club for a discussion around the ambitions and mechanics of collaborative activity past and present, and its activist role in making change.

For up to date information on all these events please see the [We Will Work With You Facebook page](#).

The exhibition draws on an archival project undertaken by the Wellington Media Collective in collaboration with the Alexander Turnbull Library and the Department of Museum and Heritage Studies, Victoria University of Wellington.

A book, *We Will Work With You: Wellington Media Collective 1978-1998* (2013), coordinated and edited by Ian Wedde with Mark Derby and Jenny Rouse, was published by Victoria University Press in conjunction with the Wellington Media Collective to accompany the exhibition. Copies are available at the Gallery for cash purchase throughout the exhibition.

Copies of the limited edition screenprint 'We Will Work With You' are available for purchase. Please enquire with the Gallery staff.

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