



ARTY

Cathy Lomax



"I work very much the same way as a curator or as an editor," Cathy Lomax explains about her role as the founder of east London's Transition Gallery and producer of the popular DIY art fanzine Arty. "I decide upon a theme and then think of people who would be interesting contributors – whose writing or visual work would add something to the whole." Since the early 2000s, Lomax has been a key player in London's fringe art scene providing emerging artists with outlets for "voicing their opinions and concerns". At various times over the years, she has worked in different capacities with Alex Michon and Stella Vine and, more recently, Nadia Hebson and Annabel Dover. The first issue of Arty, for example, featured on its cover a drawing by Alex Michon of anti-capitalist rioters wearing Marc Jacobs shoes. Lomax says: "This kind of irreverence combined with a generosity of spirit and a real love of the contemporary art scene has been very much part of Arty."

Fan culture also informs a significant part of Lomax's ethos. "Before becoming an artist,

I used to sing in a band and was very aware of the zine culture around music – I then worked in fashion and developed a real love of magazines generally." The inspiration for her own artwork comes from popular culture and is from the perspective of a fan insofar as it is "making the general personal". So it is no surprise that this kind of thinking informed her choice to use the fanzine as a format. She argues that Arty "allows the maker to produce their own little world and as an artist it is an alternative way of showing work and staging exhibitions".

In the past, Arty themes have ranged from Anarchy, Architecture, Our Idols, Scandal and most recently, The Count of Monte Cristo. Lomax is due to publish the 30th issue of Arty, but selling out is far from her mind. "I don't have any plans to turn Arty into a mainstream, glossy art magazine. I like the fact that it is most definitely a fanzine – ie made by a fan of art."

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