

MUSEUM OF  
TRANSOLOGY



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FASHION | SPACE | GALLERY



# THE MUSEUM OF TRANSOLOGY

The UK's trans communities are increasingly vibrant, visible and confident about sharing our stories. Trans people are coming out, finding each other and organising Pride events, but no matter how bold and brave we are, we cannot reverse the erasure of 'transcestry' in museums.

Historically, trans lives have been hidden for reasons of survival, by either 'passing' and therefore remaining closeted, or by only expressing our gender identities in private. Trans identities have also been overlooked as sole expressions of alternative sexualities, or considered as merely career strategies employed to outsmart gender-specific work regulations. It is therefore extremely difficult to confidently locate 'theirstory' retrospectively, because, in reality, our transcestry has been hidden, unidentified, ignored, forgotten and, in many cases, lost.

The erasure of transcestry ends here with the Museum of Transology. Comprising more than 120 objects and handwritten labels, the collection is as diverse as the trans experience itself, yet shares narratives of hope, despair, ambition, confidence and desire. These narratives have been printed in this catalogue unedited, so as to retain the authentic voices of the authors. In order for these objects to be preserved for future generations, the collection needs a permanent home in a UK museum, where it can be cared for properly. To write out transcestry is one thing: to write it back in will make theirstory.

TRANS	An umbrella term used to indicate a wide variety of people whose gender identities are not aligned with their biological sex
TRANSOLOGY	The practice of collecting trans objects and narratives
TRANSCESTRY	Evidence of trans lives lived before us
THEIRSTORY	The study of past events beyond the cisgender binary
GENDER IDENTITY	Personal, internal and cultural, and not necessarily physically visible to others
QTIPOC	Queer, Trans and Intersex Person/People Of Colour
INTERSEX	Born with sexual anatomy that does not fit typical medical definitions of female or male
NON-BINARY	To be on the gender spectrum and not bound by the constructs of male or female
GENDERQUEER	To 'queer' gender, often by taking a visual and political stance against gender conformity
CISGENDERED	Not trans. People whose gender identity happens to align with

At no point can these definitions limit, label or govern us.

# ENTRANCE HALL

## Welcome home

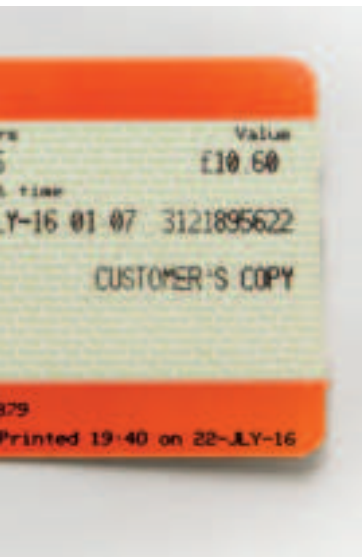
Due to transphobia, when trans people come out they often lose contact with communities from their earlier lives, including family, school and work friends, past partners, and children. Coupled with the fact that they are unlikely to have grown up surrounded by trans people, the reality for many is a social displacement that occurs because of a disassociation from one's personal theirstory. This displacement can also be physical, with one in three survey respondents to the *Trans Needs Assessment 2015* reporting that they had been homeless in the last five years.

This ostracism can be fought not only by the strength of supportive trans communities, but also through the presentation of transcestry in historical institutions. This is precisely what museums should do – offer engagement with the past as a way of making sense of the now, in order to inform a positive and responsible future. In the words of LGBT historian Susan Fernetinos, 'To offer roots to those who have at one time or another found themselves without any is a very powerful gift indeed.'

This selection of objects represents milestones of their owners' gender journeys.

Letter – 'My letter from the Queen after I changed my passport.'

Gscene Trans Pride



Train ticket 1 – 'The collection receipt for my train tickets to attend Trans Pride Brighton – It is an event that celebrates and helps to makes us more equal + acceptable in society! X'

Train ticket 2 – 'This was the ticket I used to meet my Canadian girlfriend, the first time seeing her in person as her boyfriend instead of her girlfriend. An amazing moment!'

Train ticket 3 – 'This is a prop from the last movie made by a comedic film group I started at university. Our group was almost entirely trans, and the few who weren't (bar one) were at least one other letter of the acronym. Our works included, amongst others, A Cismas Carol, Mama Queer! and re-imagining of the nativity story (featuring a pregnant Marcus and his wife Josephine, along with an inn keeper who is disgusted to discover that her husband has a penis). Most comedy featuring trans characters seems to use us as cheap punchlines, so the films were a way of being funny on our terms, lifting low spirits, and highlighting the ridiculousness of transphobia. We never made the films public, but we had private premieres where we'd dress up, get drunk, and celebrate our creations.'

Blue earring – 'I am giving up my blue stud earring it is very special to me as I have worn it to Brighton for Trans Pride first event one which is a great deal for me :)'

# WARDROBES

## Transformations: bras, boxers, binders, t-shirts and dresses

Throughout dress history, one of the central tenets of beauty has been the fashionable silhouette. From crinolines to corsets, people of all genders have gone to great lengths to shape their bodies to adhere to the beauty tropes of the day. From bras and boxers to binders for boobs, all kinds of inventive solutions are found to shape the trans silhouette. Referring to Judith Butler's earlier work, trans historian Susan Stryker explains that, 'Gender is constituted by all the innumerable acts of performing it: how we dress, move, speak, touch, look.'

Many examples of body modifiers in this collection have been handcrafted or adapted. This reflects a DIY problem-solving ethic of remaking, swapping and sharing that is now intrinsically part of the trans community's ethos. Online community groups operate to facilitate this mend-and-make-do culture. This ethos is partly due to the financial difficulties many trans people endure, being three times more likely to be on low incomes (*Count Me In Too* survey, 2007). According to the *Trans Needs Assessment 2015*, gaining and retaining employment was one of the most important challenges that trans people face. Half of respondents reported workplace harassment, and 42% were prevented by work from living in their preferred gender role.

## BRAS

**Bikini top** – 'Bikini Top 44B cup. No more beach rage! No glaring at men + their lack of triangle tan lines. Now I hit the beach in shorts, scars + a smile.'

**Black and white striped strapless bra** – 'Given the bra by someone who is a trans ally and simply outgrew it. It made me feel slightly embarrassed but thankful that they were thinking of me and the fact that it did do something to remind me that I had something up front although at the time there wasn't too much.'

**White sports bra** – 'My First Bra – Not the prettiest of items of clothing but very practical. At the time, 3 years ago, not a necessity for support BUT helped me to feel the person I knew I was. Having fought against those "Just a Phase" comments for so long became such a relief when I could dress and behave as the person I knew inside was prepared to be to the outside world. I am ME and could not be happier xxx'

**White lace bra** – 'My 1st Bra bought for me by my then partner.'

**Black velvet bra** – Post-outer-life transition (in 2007 at age 48) to androgyne/genderqueer/transintersexual...'

**White padded bra** – 'When I first transition I felt I needed a bra to pass but now it don't matter at all. There are flat chested women and gender should not be defined by our external appearance. <3'



## BOXERS

**Black velvet pants** – ‘... These are my only-retained feminine undies.’

**Black packer holder jock strap** – ‘I don’t need this anymore!!’

**Black boxers with zip** – ‘These shorts I bought on line they have a zip on the front for a secret pouch. My packer fits inside.. “AND CAN’T FALL OUT!! I love these!’

**Purple and black striped boxers** – ‘At the start of my transition I asked my mum for boxers. And she came back with this! As lovely as she is I couldn’t wait to pluck up the courage to buy something less tragic!’

**Shark boxers** – ‘SHARK PANTS! My “LUCKY” pants, given as a gift by an ex-girlfriend. These have followed me through coming out as genderqueer, social and then physical transition.’

**Control pants** – ‘Lycra pants are rather useful to conceal that which I always preferred not to be there money having always been difficult to (PTO) ... you may see there is lots of evidence of rudimentary repair attempts. Oh and BTW they were rather warm in the summer months!’



## BINDERS

**Black binder with alterations** – ‘I got my first Underworks binder from a friend, but it would always roll up over my hips – it was built for a cis man, not someone of my shape. I lost patience with it and put my corsetry skills to their best use yet crafting some black power-net into something my hips could fit into but still did the job.’

**Grey binder** – ‘This was my first binder, I quickly grew out of it and bought more, but when I grew out of those, I couldn’t afford a new one so used parts of this one to make them bigger.’

**Underworks binder** – ‘This is my first binder. I got it when I first came out as trans, very shortly after reading “XXX”. The first time I wore this, I finally saw myself in the mirror the way I see myself in my head.’

**White, short binder** – ‘I had my surgery and didn’t have to use this. I was going to give it to someone who can’t afford a new one, but I think it’s important it’s in the Museum of Transology cause so many trans guys go through having to wear these.’

**Black, very worn binder** – ‘It took me years and years to sort out chest surgery because I was self-employed in really precarious employment because I lost my career when I started transitioning. I couldn’t just take time off work when a date came up and then have weeks off to recover. This binder hurt so much, but I wore it all day, every day. I was so scared of people touching me on the shoulder in case they could feel it underneath. This thing didn’t just crush me, it crushed my soul.’

**Long, white binder** – ‘I couldn’t wear this because the tightness emphasized by waist and hips. I was upset because it cost me a lot and I was unemployed because I lost my job when I needed time off after surgery.’

**‘First ever’ black binder** – ‘My first ever binder from January 2016. 10 months on and I have come a long way. I have a new binder and feel a lot more confident/ I’m excited to see what the next 10 months bring.’

## T-SHIRTS

**White cotton vest** – ‘I was excited to comfortably begin to wear a vest, but strangely I haven’t felt the need to wear one yet! I just threw on a shirt, t-shirt or jumper, and enjoy the easy comfortable feeling of being unconfined.’

**White t-shirt** – ‘I was given this Tshirt by one of the young trans people whom I support. It’s a direct quote of my response to their lamenting the possibility of their hypothetical memorial likeness being mispronounced. Maeve’

**‘Nice Gender’ t-shirt** – ‘Each year there’s an alternative “queer pride picnic” that is held for people who feel like the mainstream Gay Pride is a corporate sell-out and unrepresentative of their identities. It’s very crafty, alternative and mostly QTIPOC run. Some young genderqueer creative activists were selling these hand-printed t-shirts. I love it so much that I hate it when it has to be washed.’

**‘Transformers’ t-shirt** – ‘Transformers youth group was founded in 2011. It’s a safe space for young trans and gender questioning people. We stopped using these Tshirts after we saw the #Blacklivesmatter hashtag. Signed by young trans service users.’

**‘Stand By Your Trans’ t-shirt** – ‘Fashion meets trans, meets a call to action #Stand/byYourTrans’

**‘T For Tranny’ t-shirt**

**‘My Generation’ t-shirt**

**‘Gender Roles Are Dead’ t-shirt**

**‘Trans Pride’ t-shirt**





## DRESSES

*Born Risky dress and boots* – ‘I wore this Vivienne Westwood Anglomania dress on Grayson Perry’s Born Risky series to challenge my own perpetuation of binary masculinity.’

*Fancy dress* – ‘Dress & top for fancy dress party, 1st time out in public as a woman.’

*Navy blue floral dress* – ‘This dress was bought online before I got a name change and the store asked me if it was a gift for someone and I said yes. When I got it, it said: “Dear Owl, Because you’re worth it. Yours always, Valur.”’

*Genderless red leather jacket* –  
Hanni Yang, BA Womenswear, LCF, 2016

## THE BATHROOM: BEAUTY AND BODY

### They, them, theirs

The diverse array of objects in the Museum of Transology reflects the diverse range of people who exist under the ‘trans’ umbrella. This includes intersex and/or non-binary people who sometimes use prosthetics, binders and make-up to feel more aligned to their gender. The United Nations estimates that between 0.05 and 1.7% of people are born intersex, but they are mostly invisible in our society. Intersex people are often subjected to nonconsensual ‘corrective’ surgical procedures as children. This is only now beginning to be recognised as a violation of people’s human rights, and in 2015, Malta became the first (and so far the only) country to outlaw nonconsensual medical interventions to modify sex anatomy.

‘Trans-intersexual activist’ Luc Raesmith calls for ‘the right to determine their own gender identity and make their own choices re. their physiology’. Luc is one of a growing number of intersex and non-binary trans people who are adopting the pronoun ‘they’ as a way of being referred to in a non-gendered way. In 2015, the American Dialect Association declared the singular pronoun ‘they’ as their word of the year.

There are a growing number of countries that recognise more than two genders: they include Germany, India and Australia, but not the UK. This means that here, only binary trans people can legally change to their correct gender. To do this they must obtain a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC). This is an expensive process and requires approval by a Gender Recognition Panel. If you pass the panel successfully, you can apply for a birth certificate in your correct gender. Without a GRC, a trans person sentenced to prison will be sent to a facility aligned with their birth sex. Inquests are currently being held into the suicides of three trans people held in the wrong prisons, and on 5 January 2017 Jenny Smith, a trans woman, died in custody in HMP Doncaster male prison after she was refused continuation of her hormonal treatment and transfer to a women’s prison.

## BATHROOM CABINETS

**7" packer** – ‘When I wore this it just made my dysphoria come out more. I hated it.’

**Max Factor lipstick** – ‘This lipstick although not the first, but was the first colour I ever got. I was looking for a melt in the background look and this colour did it for me.’

**No. 7 lipstick**

**‘Silent Movie’ red lipstick** – ‘This lipstick was from my wonderful sister who was the first family member to accept and support my transition <3’

**Female strapping** – ‘**for the right curves**’ – ‘Body tape to create the right curves.’

**Lynx deodorant** – ‘This was the first “boy” product I bought. It was for a drag king night, and it was such a life-changing event, it felt so good “dressing as a boy” and broke down some invisible barrier I had against “boy stuff” opening doors smelling great.’

**Plain prosthetic boobs** – ‘What mother nature didn’t give me.’

**Pack and pee** – ‘Homemade pack & pee! Soft packer with “she-wee” great idea in theory but impractical due to stiff plastic.’

**Boobs and tucking undies** – ‘BIG pair of tucking pants and a pair of boobs (rarely worn!) :-)’

**Teddy strapping** – ‘I found that my binder didn’t make me flat at all and instead just gave me “boob shelf” so I started using Duct tape to separate out my breasts and kind of hid them under my arms. I was trying to be stealth at the time which did not work at all pre-hormones. My breasts gave me so much dysphoria I was doing anything to flatten them. Eventually when I took my tape off one time I also took a layer of skin. Then I moved to using the sports tape here as it is made for humans.’

**Wax strips** – ‘“Ready to use hair removal wax strips.” Veet.’

**Eyelashes curlers** – ‘Battery powered eyelash curlers for hot curls!’

**Concealer** – ‘This was the first piece of makeup I bought, it all comes back to this. I learnt about it from youtube and still use it today. I finally built up the confidence to go into a shop and buy makeup without feeling judged, now that I’ve started I’ve not looked back once SPx’

**Polka-dot packing sock** – ‘First sock I packed with. I think it’s great because its vivid colour carries my flamboyant non binary identity to my underwear!’

**Jay’s weave** – ‘In June my mother told me I was born with undescended testicles and had to go to 3 different hospitals before determining my gender. It was only at the age of 12 that I had fully developed genitals. I came out to my mum and I was not accepted. My family disowned me. I lost everything but no matter what I had to move on with my transition. I felt that i would not pass with short hair so i went for a full head weave extensions. these extensions marked the beginning of my journey of self acceptance and love <3’



## Trans Feminism

Gender is increasingly recognised to be culturally and personally informed, rather than inevitably correlating with one's biological sex and physical appearance. This is an extension of the feminist principle that a woman's sex does not render her inferior to a man, rather, the patriarchal system does, and this is where trans politics and feminism meet to fight the same battle. Both feminists and trans activists also share having to face the violence that they expose. Despite the 'significant problems relating to the reporting and prosecution of hate crime against trans people', police records in England and Wales show trans hate crimes have nearly doubled in the last five years, with almost one in three being attacked or threatened more than three times in the preceding 12 months.

## Intersectionality

Multiple oppressions multiply each other, and that means that QTPOC are disproportionately affected by violence, discrimination and transphobia. According to the *Inclusivity: Supporting BAME Trans People* report published by GIRES and compiled by Sabah Choudrey, 'An intersectional approach recognises multiple identities exist in multiple combinations ... It means being proactive in learning more about people with intersecting identities from the people who face oppression associated with these identities. It means understanding, respecting and celebrating the diversity of our communities.'

## HOTPENCIL PRESS CABINET

Packer – "'KNITTED MOORHEN PACKER" Circa 2003-2006 (Started off plumper but got squished with use!)



Plaster casts – 'Monster Bodycast of phalloplasty version 1&2. Cast by Svar Simpson. 2006-2009. Removed in 2009 in preparation for more successful radial forearm phalloplasty in 2010.'

Photo – 'Photo of Monster Bodycast by Sara Davidmann. Plaster body cast held against body.'

Hotpencil Press book – 'Publication of the theatre piece *The (Trans) Mangina Monologues*. THERE IS NO WORD FOR IT, by Laura Bridgeman and Serge Nicholson, Hotpencil Press, 2011, hotpencilpress.com.'

Hotpencil Press postcard – 'Limited edition art postcard for THERE IS NO WORD FOR IT, Hotpencil Press, 2009. Artist: Simon Croft, simoncroft.co.uk.'

Transfabulous badge – 'TRANSFABULOUS - TRANS CHE - VIVA LA REVOLUTION!  
Badge designed by Bird La Bird and Alexanta Lazar for Transfabulous, 2007'

## PROSTHETICS CABINET

**Prosthetic breasts** – ‘These Amoena breast forms purchased ca 1992 replaced my home produced bra stuffers. The weight, feel and jiggle of these gave a heady experience to me I would imagine on par with the experience some transmen experience when packing the first few times. The life expectancy of these Amoena forms is ca 2–3 years so my 25 years usage attests to their excellence, the replacements cost about the same today and are equally pleasing.’

**Prosthetic penis** – ‘I wore this and slept with this every day for more than ten years.’



## ‘PRE AND POST’ COLLECTION CABINET

**Sanitary towel** – ‘Became a part of the fabric of my transition post op, while I was healing.’

**Lipstick** – ‘This was my first lipstick. It took me ages to find the right colour. I now have boxes of makeup and still addicted.’

**Pants** – ‘These are from my first set of underwear (unworn!) I was so happy to be able to wear normal undies :)’

**Photos x 2** – ‘These are my pre and post transition pics. I am so pleased when I see how far I have come. I can now fondly look back on old pics.’

**Hormones** – ‘After 2 years waiting for any hormones I eventually got prescribed Oestrogen - Sandrena 2mg. “Happy Days.”’



## DOCUMENTATION CLIPBOARDS

**Mastectomy docs**

**Travel docs and complaint letter**

**Bus ticket on A4 to Sparkle on to Trans Pride**

**Diagnosis letter** – ‘This is my diagnosis letter This “piece of paper” made it possible to obtain my new identity my passport and change my bank details etc With love, H.’

# THE LOUNGE ROOM

## A collection of intimate and extraordinary objects in the tradition of the cabinet of curiosity

**'Intersex inclusive'** – 'My intersex inclusive badge is very important. Intersex people can be trans too! Sex and Gender are very binary. It shouldn't be acceptable! It ruins lives! #BreakTheBinary.'

**'Find A Penny'** – 'This good luck charm was one of the first made for me by my best friend Izzy when I went into hospital for gender-reassignments surgery.'

**'Radio 4'** – 'I am a Radio 4 man through and through (except when I am disloyal and tune to radio 2!). I have been brought up on BBC Radio 4, and as well as finding the majority of their output extremely interesting and thought provoking, I have also found the sound of it just being on very comforting. Over the last 4 or 5 years they have broadcast quite a few trans-related programmes too, which is a very good sign indeed.'

**'Son in a million'** – 'This is a badge from the first birthday card my mum and dad gave me after I transitioned. It meant, and still means, so much to me. They are incredibly supportive. I feel very lucky.'

**'Brighton Trans\*formed'** – 'The group working on the Brighton Trans\*formed exhibition met week after week and put all our faces on badges – they sold out at Trans Pride.'

**'Non-binary'** – 'A year ago I set up an organisation for non-binary people in Ireland. I hope one day we'll all know what non-binaries are. @NonBinaryIRL'

**'Transpals'** – 'Freedom to proudly be ourselves. [Transpals.org.uk](http://Transpals.org.uk)'

**Face** – 'Got a new job, got my face in the local LGBTQ press, felt a bit awkward about it. Got presented with a badge with my own face on it by a young person I support. Funny.'

**'Trans Pride' badge and bottle opener**

**Fiddle toy** – 'A fiddle toy to take my mind off negative feelings.'

**Sampler** – 'MY TRANSNESS CANNOT BE DEFINED IN A SINGLE IMAGE – Z.G., 21, AGENDER.'

**Song in a jar and zine** – 'Please display the jar with the cork in. If the cork comes off, it's ok, the song should stay in, it's not subject to gravity. It might dry out over a few decades though! In which case, you could get a different one!'

**Ballet shoes** – 'My first pair of ballet shoes. I've been doing ballet since I was 4 years old. When I came out I was worried that people wouldn't see me as male because of my love of ballet and pointe, but because I love it so much I refused to quit. Since coming out, I've been more confident in my dancing, and while they were worn long before my transition, they hold a lot of memories for me as ballet has made me the man I am.'

**Silver women's shoes** – 'Not long after I started my transition, my cousin asked me to be a bridesmaid. I wore these shoes and a dress which my mum made. I was absolutely shitting myself in church but it was a beautiful day (<3). Maeve x'

**Baseball cap** – 'My favourite hat ... As a child I would watch my granddad with pure adoration. He was always stylishly dressed in a suit and his best church hat ... He had many beautiful qualities which I admire best of all he was a gentleman. He was passed away before I could explain to him how much he shaped me as a person. He taught me kindness and I would like to think many great, great qualities. He also is the reason I love hats.'

**My Little Pony** – ‘Immersing myself in My Little Pony is how I manage Dysphoria.’

**Vagina poetry**

**Self-portrait** – ‘This is a drawing from my ongoing art project called “Boi Becomes Hare”. I combine a self-portrait with a ghastly image of a symbolic hare, to disorder the traditional Western ideas of “transformation” and “transition”.’

**Polaroid photograph of me** – ‘I took this when I was in my first year at university in Brighton. I had been attending Charing Cross Gender Identity Clinic (as it was called then) for two years and I had finally been given the go-ahead to start transitioning officially. I took this photo in the bathroom mirror in my uni room halls, and then drew on facial hair to show how I would want to look ideally, as I have been doing since I was about 5 or 6.’

**Boxer shorts plastic bag** – ‘Marks & Sparks hispter trunks satisfy my autistic urges for stripes & a good plastic bag. Lots of Aspergic & autistic have gender-fluid thinking or are trans\*.’

**Juliet Jacques book** – ‘Juliet was the first transgender person I know. I admired her djing and then her inspiring guardian transition story.’

*Transitional Demands zine*

**Are You A Boy Or Are You A Girl? book** – ‘I co-created this book with Sarah Savage. When we met on My Transsexual Summer (14) we both said we wanted to make a kid's book to help simplify and explain gender non conformity to young people. The book was a successful kickstarter and has been picked up by Jessica Kingsley publishers, to be released again in 2017, with new illustrations and more plot!’

**Brighton Trans\*formed book** – ‘This HLF funded Brighton project by Queenspark books changed the face of the trans community in our city. We plastered the side of the wall of the pub with photocopies of our faces and all came out to the local community walking past. We projected huge images of our faces onto the side of a church in the busiest part of town. And we found each other, and worked together, and listened to each other's stories.’

**Gscene magazine and trunks worn on cover** – ‘I wore these speedos for my first ever swim after top surgery. Before that, I hadn't swam in over 10 years, despite swimming a lot as a kid. When asked to be on the front cover of G-scene magazine, I pushed the trans swimming sessions, but was shocked they blacked out the pool, so it looks like I'm naked for no reason!’

**Goggles** – ‘THESE ARE THE FIRST PAIR OF GOGGLES THAT I HAD OWNED IN YEARS, SINCE UNDERGOING TOP SURGERY IN EARLY 2015. It's great to fully savour the sensations of the water on my bare chest as I swim underwater in the swimming pool and the sea.’

**Trans Pride merchandise** – ‘I designed and printed the Trans Pride logo and merch. The original logo changed after feedback, in the first year, that it wasn't that readable for some people. We also scrapped the asterisk in Trans\* Pride, as the \* wasn't inclusive.’

**Nervus record** - ‘We get forced down the tube of identity according to our genitals’ – Em, Guitarist/ Vocalist, Nervus.’

**Thai Airways card** – ‘Thailand is very trans friendly although it took a year to change my name. Also the “lightbulb” moment for me was in Laos.’

# MEDICAL CABINET

## Feeling hormonal

In multiple UK surveys of trans people conducted over the past decade, it has been repeatedly reported that around half of young trans people and a third of trans adults have attempted suicide. The use of hormones and surgical procedures by some trans people are critical to their wellbeing. Navigating the pathway to treatment can be complex and fraught with emotional anxiety. In October 2015, the *UK Trans Info Survey* reported that 14% of people on the UK's specialty Gender Identity Clinic waiting lists had been waiting for over 52 weeks, and 65% waited over 18 weeks. This means 79% of trans patients' treatment is in breach of NHS guidelines. According to the *Trans Needs Assessment Report 2015*, some trans people and clinicians are unaware referrals no longer need to be made via mental health services, despite being provided inside mental health service facilities. Four in ten users were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their pathway to care and treatment. 'Negative experiences reported by service users included waiting times and delays, administrative errors, travel distance, disempowerment, and a lack of clarity about the care pathway. These issues were also reported by some stakeholders, including clinicians.' The *Transgender Equality Inquiry 2016* concludes that 'The NHS is letting down trans people: it is failing in its legal duty under the Equality Act.'

**Sustanon packet** – 'SUSTANON 250 IS THE BEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME APART FROM MY WIFE & SON! IT'S MADE ME THE HUSBAND AND FATHER I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE.'

**Estradiol packets x 2** – 'These saved my life in more than one way'

**Sustanon box** – 'FINALLY!!! In the 1st term of my 2nd year at uni, the consultants gave me the go-ahead to start having testosterone injections. I was SO happy!! I felt like it had taken forever to reach that point. I will continue to have these injections for the rest of my life.'

**Evorel 100 empty packet** – 'Back in 2010 my ex saw me putting on a pair of socks whilst I was sitting on the base of our bed, facing the mirrored wardrobe she exclaimed "my god you've got tits! It was a result of self medding A couple of years later PTO I was eventually prescribed hormones and although I used Oestrogen in pill form until GRS, afterwards I went onto transdermal patches:- EVEROL 100. Unfortunately, I had a skin reaction and have since moved onto Oestrogel.'

**Testosterone amps** – 'Anonymous'

**Testogel empty packet** – 'Hormones made me feel better than I expected straight away + after a few months I started to recognise myself.'

**Testorel sachet cabinet shot** – 'This little sachet made me SO ILL for the first six months, yet I battled through. It represents DETERMINATION and HOPE that things would get better – and they did!'

**Testogel sachet** – 'I started taking Testogel on Transgender day of Remembrance (20th of November) 2014. I was looking forward to taking it for so long. I'm very happy with my deeper voice and some facial hair. Today is 23rd of July 2016.'

**Elleste Solo 2mg tablet box**

**Estradot packet cut-out**

**Progynova packet** – ‘USED PROGYNOVA PACKET

The medication that has finally allow me, in part, to look like myself after 40 years.’

**Sandrena and Triptorelin packets** – ‘These are estradiol gel packets and a testosterone blocking injection. I use 3 gel packets everyday and the injection every 10 weeks. Getting these was an annoying process. The mental health team were being dickheads and gatekeeping me from the gender clinic. I had to self-medicate for a month as I felt desperate but it became too expensive. It took me a few years to get past the MH team, but I eventually got prescribed these and they’re a life saver.’

**Androcur 50mg tablet box**

**Evorel 100 hormone packet** – ‘These are my estrogen patches ... without these I was a singularly miserable person. I have always been confused as to why some people are SO adamant that I should not be allowed them’

**T patch from Japan** – ‘I started T when I was 18 years old. I often get bad side effects.. But this made me who I really am. I wouldn’t be here without this. [Arrow pointing to patch] Patch from JAPAN’

**Testogel box and sachets x 15** – ‘This is an old box of Testogel. Testogel was the first kind of testosterone that I started taking. I started it on 24th September 2013. I now take an injectable testosterone. So this box reminds me of my early feelings of medical transition.’

**Progynova** – ‘I got these after I had already been self-medding with birth control pills for almost two years. After finally getting a prescription for Progynova I was surprised to find that they actually made me very emotionally unstable and really depressed for the first time in my life. This has almost completely disappeared now but it was a reminder that not all steps in transition are simple.’

**Testosterone box in packaging** – ‘14.11.16 Hey guys! This is my first ever vial of Sustanon. (kind of). My nurse refused to use it she didn’t trust my source! The 48 hour delay for my T-shot, felt like 48 years! However; 8 months later, I’ve never been happier!’



# IN HOSPITAL

## Trans embodiment

A great deal of public fascination surrounds gender confirmation surgery. The hyper-spectacle of the 'before and after' is a common way for the popular media to measure trans 'success' stories. But one's trans-ness is not measured by the type or amount of surgical procedures embarked upon.

It is increasingly understood that trans people can play a more autonomous role in creating new, wondrous and different bodies that can embrace and celebrate creative adaptability. This can require a bigger leap of faith than buying into a female or male genital binary, which is often sold on a surgeon's promise that the trans body will be made into an effective cisgender copy, a sewn-together mannequin, designed to pass well visually.

Serge Nicholson advocates for a fuller engagement with trans embodiment. 'As a trans man punk elder, I can recall my (pre-Internet era) hunger for the sight of gender nonconforming representation. I found us – trans, genderqueer and post-gender – in performance, photography and film. Some of us went on to reveal our clothed and semi-naked, hormonally altered bodies under bright studio spotlights, appearing in exhibitions, queer art books and on stages. Over the decades, we have had spaces to parade and play, on dancefloors and in black-painted sex clubs. We have had opportunities for negotiating consensual trans amorous sex, if we wished. Dancing and displaying, either for our own pleasure and/or for others, we could invite in the gaze. We could take a moment to glory in our trans-ness.'

'E-J', from the series *Reimagine*, Bharat Sikka, 2016, a Photoworks/FOCUS Festival Mumbai co-commission for Brighton Photo Biennial in partnership with University of Brighton

'I recall life via the objects I save that I associate with specific events – thus my interest in museology. Having my chest surgery changed how I lived as a person, and allowed me to de-traumatize part of the daily physical oppression I associate with being trans. This collection is everything I saved from that event. My name tag, the gown and anti-blood clot socks I wore in the operating theatre, the syringe I was administered morphine from, the little paper cups that I was given medicine in, the 'It's a Boy' balloon my friends brought to the hospital, the binder that I wore that still has blood on it, the documentation ... And, of course, the bits that caused my lactose intolerance.

This collection started what I now call the Museum of Transology.'

Breast tissue preserved in formaldehyde x 2 jars

Hospital gown

Towel

Bloody binder

Hospital anti-blood clot socks

It's a Boy! balloon

Medicine paper cups x 3

Used needles x 4

Hospital and mastectomy documentation



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## SUPPORT GROUPS AND ADVICE

### All About Trans

[allabouttrans.org.uk](http://allabouttrans.org.uk)

### Allsorts Youth Project

[allsortsyouth.org.uk](http://allsortsyouth.org.uk)

### The Art of Transliness

[theartoftransliness.com](http://theartoftransliness.com)

### Assert

[assertbh.org.uk](http://assertbh.org.uk)

### Brighton and Hove LGBT Switchboard

[switchboard.org.uk](http://switchboard.org.uk)

### Clare Project

[clareproject.org.uk](http://clareproject.org.uk)

### desiQ

[facebook.com/groups/desiQLondonSE](https://facebook.com/groups/desiQLondonSE)

### FTM Brighton

[ftmbrighton.org.uk](http://ftmbrighton.org.uk)

[facebook.com/ftmbrighton](https://facebook.com/ftmbrighton)

### Galop

[galop.org.uk](http://galop.org.uk)

### Gender Dynamix

[genderdynamix.org.za](http://genderdynamix.org.za)

### Gendered Intelligence

[genderedintelligence.co.uk](http://genderedintelligence.co.uk)

### Gender Matters

[gendermatters.co.uk](http://gendermatters.co.uk)

### The Gender Trust

[gendertrust.org.uk](http://gendertrust.org.uk)

### Gender Identity Research and Education Society

[gires.org.uk](http://gires.org.uk)

### Grassroots Suicide Prevention

[prevent-suicide.org.uk](http://prevent-suicide.org.uk)

### Imaan LGBTQI Muslim Support Group

[imaan.org.uk](http://imaan.org.uk)

**International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)**  
[ilga.org](http://ilga.org)

### Intersections

[cliniq.org.uk/services/intersections-for-trans-queer-muslims](http://cliniq.org.uk/services/intersections-for-trans-queer-muslims)

### Mermaids

[mermaidsuk.org.uk](http://mermaidsuk.org.uk)

### MindOUT

[mindout.org.uk](http://mindout.org.uk)

### My Generation Films

[mygeneration.com](http://mygeneration.com)

### On Road Media

[onroadmedia.org.uk](http://onroadmedia.org.uk)

### QTIPOCs London

[facebook.com/groups/232663200178649](https://facebook.com/groups/232663200178649)

### Transiness

[transiness.co.uk](http://transiness.co.uk)

### Transliving International

[translivinginternational.co.uk](http://translivinginternational.co.uk)

### Trans Media Watch

[transmediawatch.org](http://transmediawatch.org)

### TransPALS

[transpals.org.uk](http://transpals.org.uk)

### Transgender Europe (TGEU)

[tgeu.org](http://tgeu.org)

### TranzWiki

TranzWiki attempts to be a comprehensive directory of the groups campaigning for, supporting or assisting trans and gender non-conforming individuals, including those who are non-binary and non-gender, as well as their families across the UK.

[gires.org.uk/the-wiki](http://gires.org.uk/the-wiki)



You can join the Museum of Transology by posting photos of objects that represent your own journey on the Museum of Transology's Instagram page, using a [#transology](#) tag.