

Art and Music

“What was amazing about that campaign was that it was as important that [the tower] be painted florescent pink and green as it was that it be a really good, solid structure from which to resist eviction.”

- Anonymous

The art and the music that emerged from the M11 campaign played a crucial role in defining the culture of a generation of political activists.

The push and pull of art and protest was constantly at play in the emerging activities.

“Christine Binny was an artist and she became responsible for what became the art house... She got artists to paint each room of the house, paint the walls and turn them into an art instillation... You could walk through the house and it was like living art.”

- Anonymous



Woman dancing, from the one-off publication, "Claremont Road - Festival of Resistance" c.1993

The 1990s rave culture grew up alongside the No M11 Link Road Campaign, with Claremont Road playing a particularly prominent role. Claremont Road became a living art exhibition, with furniture being taken out onto the streets and sculptures emerging from the rubble, all simultaneously serving social, aesthetic and resistance purposes.



Furniture on the street of Claremont Road c.1993

“Well I did some art. And I did some construction of barricades and I did some action... climbing up and sitting on a crane to stop the work “

- John Frost (John the Cook)



"Rust in Peace", artwork on Claremont Road c. 1993



Drawing of the tower on Claremont Road, built as a tactic for resisting eviction. Taken from the one-off publication "Claremont Road - Festival of Resistance" c.1994

“I was enthusiastic about going to rave parties, and I enjoyed dancing through the night”

- John Frost (John the Cook)

Empty buildings were co-opted for free parties, and the Prodigy's 1994 album Music for the Jilted Generation became one of the key soundtracks of the protests. The track 'Their Law' – about the 1994 Criminal Justice Act - was memorably blasted out on the day of the evictions at Claremont Road.

“I remember going to sleep listening to people making music, and that was always quite nice”.

- Alice Kirby

Protesters and partiers gather around a fire amongst the nets on Claremont Road c. 1993



An Eastside Community Heritage exhibition. Visit our website www.hidden-histories.org.uk

