

Union Street - Artists run Space
Directors: Jelle Van Den Berg, Debra Dawes, Jeff Gibson, Deborah Singleton.

‘It is a surprising fact that the advent of dealer-galleries – in the entrepreneurial form that they exist today – was coeval with the rise of artist-run co-operatives in the second half of the 19th century. After the famous crisis of the *Salon des Refuses* in Paris in 1863, anti-academic artists who had suffered the repeated humiliating experience of not being able to get their work into the official State-sponsored, academically-juried Salon began to consider alternative ways of exhibiting their work... The most powerful challenge the hegemony of the Salon did not come through intervention of dealer-galleries, but through artists’ own initiatives. At the forefront of the revolt was an organisation which called itself *La Societe Anonyme des Artistes Peintres, Sculpteurs, Graveurs etc*. It was an artists-run co-operative which held seven exhibitions between 1874 and 1886. the debut exhibition of the *Societe Anonyme* better known to us today as the First Impressionist Exhibition.’

Terence Maloon in *Union Street: Catalogue of Exhibition* held at George Paton Gallery 5-27 August 1986. Artists: Debra Dawes, Suzi Coyle, Jeffrey Gibson, Geoff Kleem, Leah Mackinnon, Deborah Singleton, Jelle Van Den Berg, Anne Zahalka