**MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Accessible Toilet becomes Art Gallery for the exhibition**

**of a new work by Ju Gosling aka ju90: *No Hope of Rescue***

An accessible toilet at Open Barbers in Shoreditch is the site of a new digital mixed media work by international Disabled artist DrJu Gosling aka ju90 ([www.ju90.co.uk](http://www.ju90.co.uk)).

No Hope of Rescueconsists of 72 images of ‘accessible’ toilets, where the emergency alarm cord has been sabotaged or placed out of reach of the floor. A net made of red cord has been stretched across the resulting photographic montage, which is printed on white aluminium; the net has then been slashed through the centre.

Ju explains: “I began photographing the ‘accessible’ community and public toilets that I visit over 15 years ago, because I realized that the emergency alarms were very seldom operational. The alarms are designed to be used if someone falls when getting on or off the toilet, so the cords need to touch the floor. Instead, as these images show, alarm cords are commonly wound back around pipes, cut and knotted off, or the cords are missing altogether.

“Open Barbers, in contrast, spent over 18 months finding premises that could be fully inclusive of Disabled people, and worked alongside Disabled customers to make their salon as accessible as possible. I couldn’t be more pleased that No Hope of Rescue will be seen first in a truly accessible toilet!

“Politicians often talk glibly about people falling through society’s safety nets. Instead, as this work shows, safety systems are commonly illusory, sabotaged by neglect and human interference. I am dedicating this work to the residents and neighbours of Grenfell Tower, and any future profits from it will go to the Khadija Saye Memorial Fund.”

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**NOTES FOR EDITORS**

**Dr Ju Gosling aka ju90** works largely with digital lens-based media but also performance, text and sound, and has been working internationally since 1999. Based in East London, Ju is Artistic Director of Together! 2012 and Folk in Motion CICs, creating a Paralympic Cultural Legacy in the main Host Borough of Newham, and is a Co-Chair of Regard, the national LGBTQI+ Disabled People’s Organisation. For a full biography and examples of her work see [www.ju90.co.uk](http://www.ju90.co.uk), where an online slideshow version of No Hope of Rescue is also available.

**Open Barbers** Open Barbers is a hairdressing project for any hair length and type, welcoming people of all genders and sexualities. Running as a social enterprise, the team deliver services at their salon in East London, and at people's homes for those unable to visit the salon. The ethos of the project is to provide respectful, accessible and affordable haircuts, particularly for those who find mainstream salons and barbershops challenging on the basis of gender norms. Other barriers people often face in salons and barbers are physical access, mental health stigma and body shaming, all of which Open Barbers aim to respond to positively and proactively.

In 2016, Open Barbers opened their first dedicated salon having raised £27,657 through [crowdfunding](https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/openbarbersvenue/) to make the new space accessible throughout.

**Around the Toilet** is a collaborative project funded by the AHRC which focuses on themes of access and exclusion for queer, trans and disabled people, and uses the arts and design as a way to communicate their findings with architects, design

professionals, and the general public. Details of their work to date can be found on their website: [aroundthetoilet.com](http://aroundthetoilet.com/). They will be releasing a short animated film, a project report, and a toilet zine featuring the work of Dr Ju Gosling at the beginning of 2018.

**Ends/**