

## **Moon in Venus: What future do you desire?**

In March, a shop like no other is coming to the Strand Shopping Centre — “Moon in Venus” is a space for local women to come together to collectively heal from the burden of debt, learn how we got here, access support, and start to imagine a future beyond their current financial situation.

With energy prices and the cost of living increasing, household spending is becoming a worry for many families in our area, with unmanageable debt becoming a burden that many women carry. During Women’s History Month, **Venus Charity** and **Rule of Threes Arts**’ will come together to create a warm and welcoming space that is a response to the growing need for access to services and support with money and debt management in our area.

Our community is living in a continued debt crisis, with Bootle having the fifth-highest levels of insolvency in Britain — communities here struggling to pay off their debts more than anywhere else in the North West. Venus’ Charity has witnessed the disproportionate impact this has on women. The temporary space is pilots a new approach for Venus to make their Money Management programme and information about energy efficiency more accessible to women in need, and to reframe how we collectively tackle the issue of debt.

Opening on the 8th March, “Moon in Venus” will be open from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and available for people who identify as women to attend.

Alongside practical support, we will invite women to participate in an ‘out of hours’ holistic programme focused on looking beyond our debt and living well, as well as learning opportunities around the historical, political, social and economic context of debt and how we got to the position we are in. Local women will also be invited to participate in yoga with **Katy Gilmour**; connect with nature with **Lateisha Davine**

**Lovelace-Hanson**, draft excluder making with **Emma Summerscales**, and to a 'Slow Cooker Meal' with **The Alternative School of Economics**, which will explore the energy crisis over a warm bowl of food.

The concept for the project was first thought through in 2019 by artist **Jeanne van Heeswijk** — who aims to “radicalise the local” through projects such as 'Homebaked' in Anfield — together with Venus' staff, volunteers, and service users. After a pause in the project due to the pandemic, we invited facilitating artists **Phoebe Bachman** and **Fauziya Johnson** to work with local women to explore hopes, desires and collectively imagine a future beyond debt through a series of online workshops. The idea for an accessible space to support and empower women arose from conversations together.

Over the month, we will explore the issue of debt and the energy crisis through a social media campaign, highlighting the voices of local women, community activists, and organisations fighting against injustice and presenting alternative economies.

Thank you to our funders Arts Council England, Battersea Arts Centre and Energy Redress.

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For any press inquiries please email [faye@ruleofthrees.co.uk](mailto:faye@ruleofthrees.co.uk) for further details.

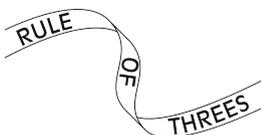
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## About

**[Moon in Venus](#)** is a project by The Venus Centre and Rule of Threes Arts, funded by Arts Council England, Energy Saving Trust and Battersea Arts Centre. The project is supported through use of space in the Strand Shopping Centre.

**[Venus Charity](#)** has been supporting women, children, and families to live healthier and happier lives in Bootle for over 25 years, through self-empowerment, advocacy, and support. Their services include mental health, youth justice, housing and



resettlement. This project acts as a pilot scheme for making those services more accessible, and readily available to those who need them.

**Rule of Threes** is an arts consultancy organisation that makes small, beautiful projects, produced with time and care, that embed contemporary art practices in everyday life. They aim to initiate new art programmes that create agency and change for people and their local neighborhoods.

**Jeanne van Heeswijk** is an artist who facilitates the creation of dynamic and diversified public spaces in order to “radicalize the local”. Her long-scale community-embedded projects question art’s autonomy by combining performative actions, discussions, and other forms of organizing and pedagogy in order to assist communities to take control of their own futures.

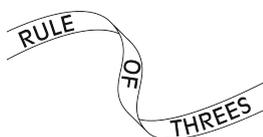
**Phoebe Bachman** is an artist, facilitator, and project manager whose practice is rooted in traditional and community-based research practice. Bachman completed a Masters at the Center for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths University of London. Their research centers on building a supportive infrastructure for household debt abolition.

**Fauziya Johnson** is a freelance curator, artist, producer and writer based in Manchester. She focuses her work on raising awareness around mental health, Queerness, anti-racism, debt abolishment, architecture, and institutional, racist, inequalities.

**The Alternative School of Economics**, run by artists Ruth Beale and Amy Feneck, is an artistic project using the practice of self-education to study economics, creating a framework for investigating political, social, and cultural issues.

**Katy Gilmour** is a yoga teacher and healing practitioner. Women’s yoga and Leadership, Seasonal Yoga, Trauma-informed yoga, Hatha, Astanga, children’s yoga, Reiki, and the shamanic Munay-Ki rites.

**Emma Summerscales** is a fashion designer and textile artist based in Liverpool 8, whose work in sustainable design builds on a lifelong practice collecting and customizing secondhand clothes, and an exploration of zero-waste.



[Lateisha Davine Lovelace-Hanson](#) is a London-based interdisciplinary artist: writer, performer/actor, theatre-maker, embodiment practitioner, curator/organiser, and facilitator of Jamaican heritage.

[The New Strand Shopping Centre](#) is known locally simply as 'The Strand' and is the main shopping centre in Bootle, Merseyside. It is community-focused and supports local organisations with community projects when possible.

