



22 Rue de l'Échiquier, 75010 Paris

(xliv)

Lydia Eccles, Jokes about bombs will not be taken lightly.

Exhibition 15 May – 14 June 2025
Open Thursday - Saturday 14h – 18h

“We can do whatever we like, as long as it’s unimportant.”¹

Goswell Road is proud to present: **Jokes about bombs will not be taken lightly.** — the first solo exhibition in France by multimedia artist Lydia Eccles (b. 1954, USA).

The exhibition is maintained within the framework of Eccles’s seminal project, *Unapack: Unabomber ‘96 Presidential Write-In Campaign* (1995–1998), a provocative intervention that took the form of a political campaign to elect the Unabomber as a write-in candidate in the 1996 U.S. presidential election. The campaign’s Shermanesque slogan — “If elected, he will not serve” — was a subversion of the political spectacle. Its theoretical foundation was rooted in the Unabomber’s anti-technology, pro-collapse manifesto *Industrial Society and Its Future*, published by *The New York Times* with *The Washington Post* on September 19th 1995, and in the subsequent arrest of its author, Ted Kaczynski — a mathematics prodigy and former academic who had renounced modern society to live in isolation in a Thoreauvian cabin in the Montana wilderness for 25 years.

Eccles’ *Unapack* campaign reached the 1996 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, distributing materials within convention halls and press zones. It attracted both national and international media attention, including the *The New York Time*, *Time Magazine*, and *CNN*.

A key contributor to the project, multimedia artist Chris Korda, founder of *The Church of Euthanasia*, created the *Unapack* website. This enabled the campaign to gain global traction while paradoxically using the same digital technologies it sought to critique — a contradiction that further confounded the mainstream media narratives. During Kaczynski’s trial, the project evolved into *The Exploded Manifesto*, shifting its focus from the electoral context to the broader implications of Kaczynski’s ideas, trial, prosecution and subsequent life sentence in solitary confinement. Eccles and Kaczynski corresponded until his death in 2023.

The *Unapack* project is bookended between two of Eccles’s other significant works. The first is *You’re Soaking In It!* (1993–1995), a collaboration with Wendy Hamer under the guise of *Buffalo Gals*, created in response to the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority’s installation of advertising monitors in Boston’s subway system. The duo produced 20 silkscreened graphic/text images, T-shirts, and pamphlets challenging the state’s actions and filed a First Amendment class-action lawsuit against the MBTA.

The second is *What is Media?* (2000–2001), during which Eccles undertook a strict, year-long media deprivation experiment. She abstained from all forms of media consumption — including news, internet, television, film, radio, and post-1990 publications — except for involuntary exposure in public spaces. Throughout this period, she documented her experience through a public diary and research archive hosted by the mini-museum, Local Idea Council, curated by Andrew Guthrie.

Listen! The exhibition is soundtracked and illuminated by Eccles’ *Meditation* performance videos (2004), featuring the sounds of pigeons, a jackhammer, and ambient noise. The series concludes with *Money Meditation* (2004), in which Eccles withdraws a \$100 bill, consumes it, excretes it, then washes, dries, and redeposits it—completing a visceral cycle of consumption and return—an act of anti-capital resistance and a physical act of love.

¹ Ted Kaczynski, *Industrial Society and Its Future*, 9.19.1995 (New York Times)

Bio: Lydia Eccles, born in 1954, lives and works between Boston, Massachusetts, and rural Vermont, USA.

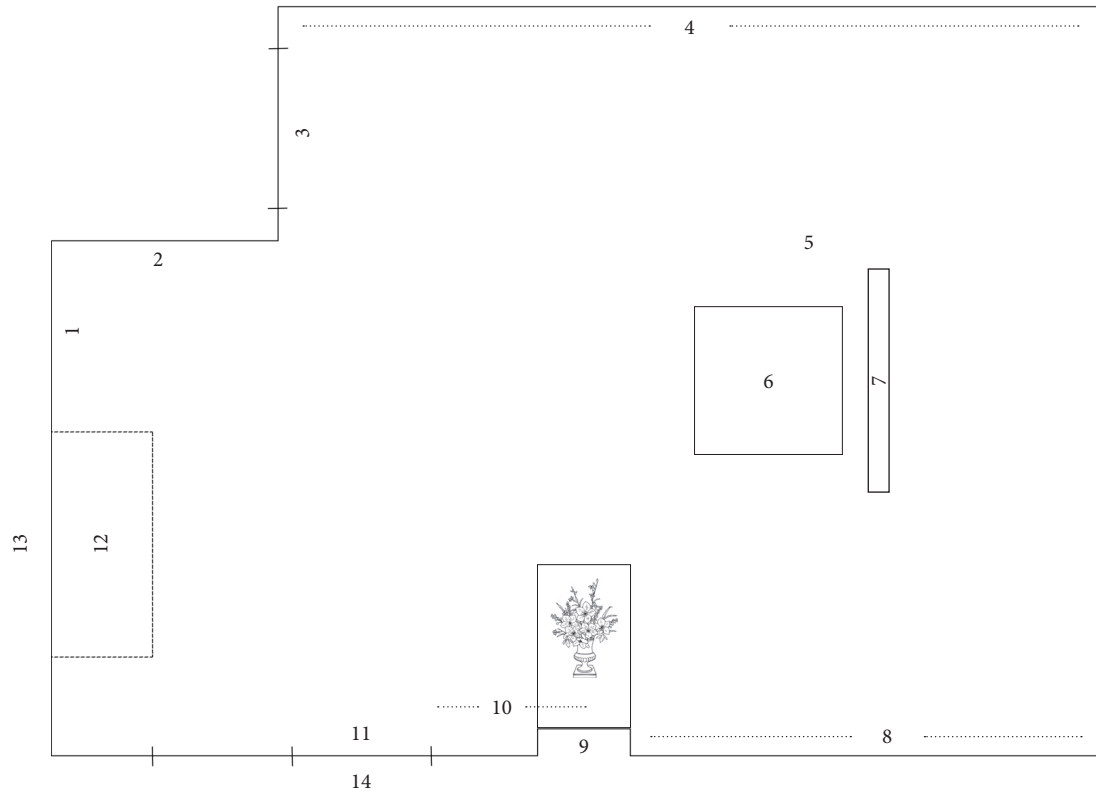
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- 1 Buffalo Gals (Lydia Eccles & Wendy Hamer), *You're Soaking In It!*, 1993 (documentation)
35 silkscreen stickers against the MBTA putting advertising monitors in subway stations.
& First Amendment class action lawsuit against the MBTA.
Buffalo Gals, *Just do it.*, 1993 (hand painted billboard)
- 2 Lydia Eccles, *Ted Kaczynski as existential protagonist*, 2025 (graphic on paper)
Items from Ted's cabin (floor) & Jacques Ellul publications
- 3 Lydia Eccles, *am I predictable?*, 2025 (graphic on paper)
- 4 **The Unabomber Wall—Unapack: Unabomber '96 Presidential Write-In Campaign**
Various press clippings, press releases, photographs, journal entries, silkscreen stickers,
campaign signs and works including:
Lydia Eccles, *Top Ten Reasons to Vote for the Unabomber*, 1995 (graphic on card)
Lydia Eccles, *The Politics Of Everyday Life*, 1996 (graphic on card)
Lydia Eccles, *There Was a time When you Were not a Slave*, 1995 (billboard modification)
Lydia Eccles, *Straighten Up & Enjoy Life*, 1996 (billboard modification)
Lydia Eccles, *Unapack bumper stickers*, 1995 - 1996 (12 silkscreen bumper stickers)
Lydia Eccles, *Don't Blame me!*, 1996 (silkscreen bumper sticker)
- 5 Ted Kaczynski, *Industrial Society and Its Future*, (The Unabomber Manifesto)
The Washington Post newspaper supplement, published September 19, 1995
- 6 Documents received during *The Exploded Manifesto* (1997 - 1998) from Eccles' extended
subcultural network.
- 7 Lydia Eccles, *Jackhammer Meditation*, 2004 (6:23 min, video)
Lydia Eccles, *Pigeon Meditation*, 2004 (5:51 min, video)
Lydia Eccles, *Rush Meditation*, 2004 (5:26 min, video)
Lydia Eccles, *Money Meditation*, 2004 (17:48 min, video)
- 8 **Ted Kaczynski Trial, Sentencing & Jail Wall—The Exploded Manifesto**
Various press clippings, press releases, photographs, journal entries,
letters and works including:
Lydia Eccles, *Exploded Manifesto posters*, 1997 (3 xerox posters)
Lydia Eccles, *When Are You going to Figure out ...*, 1997
(billboard modification)
Lydia Eccles, *Do Not Resuscitate*, 1998 (double billboard modification)
Lydia Eccles, *Exploded Manifesto bumper stickers*, 1997 - 1998
(20 silkscreen bumper stickers)
Lydia Eccles, *Prison Notecard (Greetings from Florence)*, (xerox card)
- 9 Lydia Eccles, *Science can't tell us whether to be alarmed*, 1998
(billboard modification)
- 10 Lydia Eccles, *What is Media?*, 2000–2001 (documentation)*
Eccles' strict, year-long media deprivation experiment.
- 11 **Ted Kaczynski passes away (June 10, 2023)**
Various press clippings, photographs and letters, including:
Lydia Eccles, *Prison Notecard (The Frog Prince)*, (printed card)
- 12 Lydia Eccles, *Nature is on our side.*, 2025 (graphic on card)
- 13 Lydia Eccles, *Nature Leading The People*, 2025 (graphic on card)
- 14 Lydia Eccles, *Jokes about bombs will not be taken lightly.*, 2025
(laminated sign)

* From 2000 - present, Eccles serves as participant-observer/test human for
UNIVERSAL ALIENS Salvage Ethnography

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