



Ruth Ewan

Did You Kiss the Foot that Kicked You? £15.00

In October 2007, London's commuters may have noticed the sudden presence of over 100 musicians along their routes to work. This subtle rush hour performance, titled *Did you kiss the foot that kicked you?*, was a new artwork by Ruth Ewan, commissioned by Artangel as the first of the four Jerwood/Artangel Open commissions.

Did you kiss the foot that kicked you? is a line from the song *Ballad of Accounting* by the late English singer, songwriter, socialist, actor, playwright and record producer Ewan MacColl. Recently released files from The National Archive show that MI5 considered MacColl to be 'a communist with very extreme views' who needed 'special attention'. His file states, as a cause for concern, that MacColl had 'exceptional ability as a singer and musical organiser'.

MacColl wrote *Ballad of Accounting* in 1964 as a summing-up song: an accounts sheet of life. *Did you stand aside and let them choose while you took second best? Did you let them skim the cream off and then give to you the rest?*

For Ruth's performance, *Ballad of Accounting* was slipped into the musical repertoires of over 100 buskers from an Oompah band on Waterloo Bridge to a delta blues singer at Marble Arch tube station. The musicians performed during the morning and evening rush hours for one week.

By way of documenting the project, Artangel has produced this limited edition red vinyl LP containing five diverse renditions of *Ballad of Accounting* by different buskers, plus the original 1972 recording by MacColl and Peggy Seeger.

Limited, numbered edition of 500.

Product Details

Artist(s)	Ruth Ewan
Publisher	Artangel
ISBN	9781902201191
Format	12" red vinyl record
Illustrations	b&w
Dimensions	250mm x 250mm
Weight	230