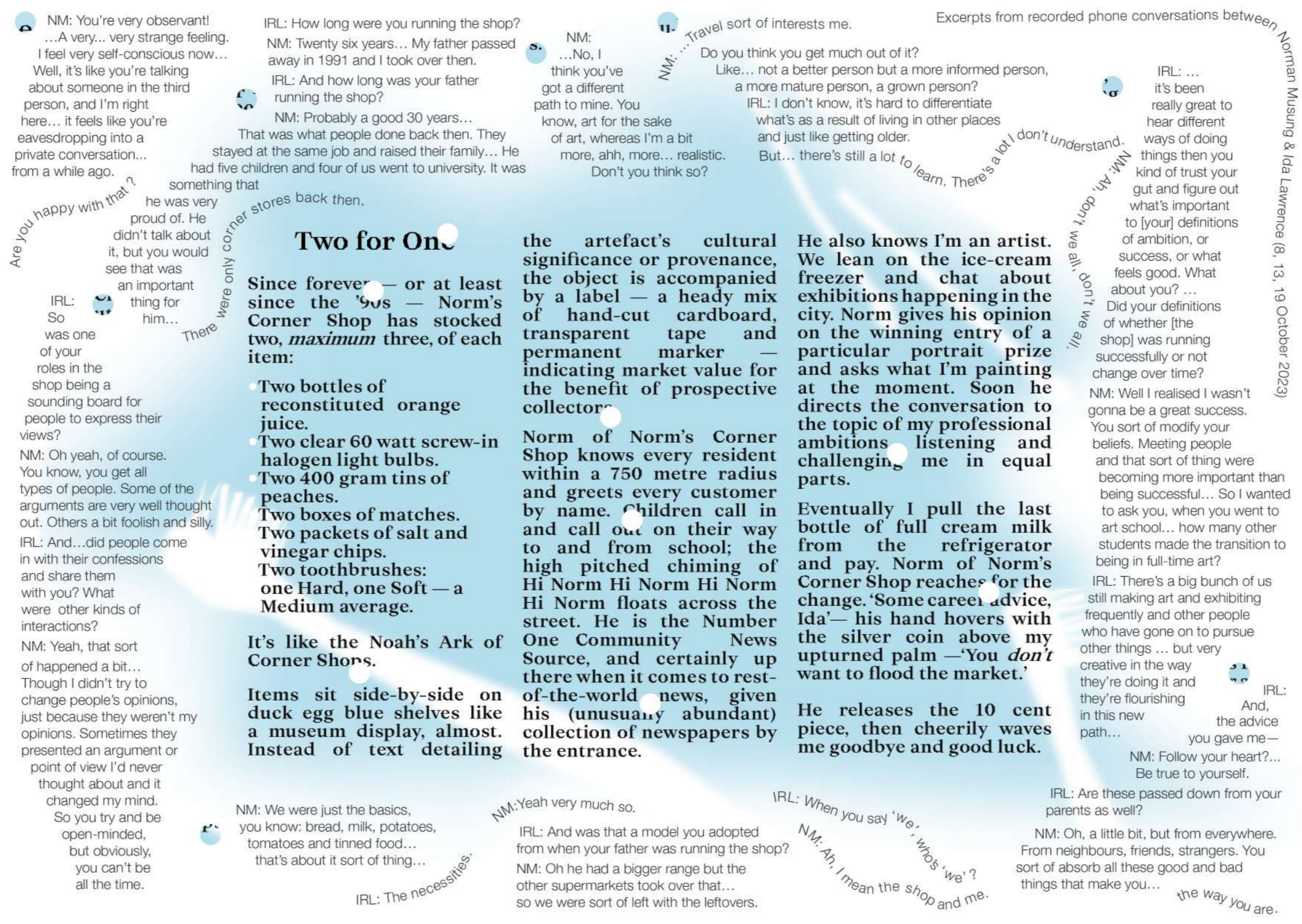


# Ida Lawrence



## Two for One

Since forever — or at least since the '90s — Norm's Corner Shop has stocked two, *maximum* three, of each item:

- Two bottles of reconstituted orange juice.
- Two clear 60 watt screw-in halogen light bulbs.
- Two 400 gram tins of peaches.
- Two boxes of matches.
- Two packets of salt and vinegar chips.
- Two toothbrushes: one Hard, one Soft — a Medium average.

It's like the Noah's Ark of Corner Shops.

Items sit side-by-side on duck egg blue shelves like a museum display, almost. Instead of text detailing

the artefact's cultural significance or provenance, the object is accompanied by a label — a heady mix of hand-cut cardboard, transparent tape and permanent marker — indicating market value for the benefit of prospective collectors.

Norm of Norm's Corner Shop knows every resident within a 750 metre radius and greets every customer by name. Children call in and call out on their way to and from school; the high pitched chiming of Hi Norm Hi Norm Hi Norm Hi Norm floats across the street. He is the Number One Community News Source, and certainly up there when it comes to rest-of-the-world news, given his (unusually abundant) collection of newspapers by the entrance.

He also knows I'm an artist. We lean on the ice-cream freezer and chat about exhibitions happening in the city. Norm gives his opinion on the winning entry of a particular portrait prize and asks what I'm painting at the moment. Soon he directs the conversation to the topic of my professional ambitions, listening and challenging me in equal parts.

Eventually I pull the last bottle of full cream milk from the refrigerator and pay. Norm of Norm's Corner Shop reaches for the change. 'Some career advice, Ida'— his hand hovers with the silver coin above my upturned palm — 'You *don't* want to flood the market.'

He releases the 10 cent piece, then cheerily waves me goodbye and good luck.

**Ida Lawrence** lives in Berlin and often wanders to Indonesia and Australia via her painted stories. Her solo show, *Basa-Basi / Chit-Chat*, was exhibited by ISA Art Gallery at Art SG 2023, while her tallest tale was painted on the eight-by-fifteen meter wall at Urban Spree, Berlin, in 2020. She is a recipient of the Marten Bequest Scholarship for Painting and is cooking up a publication called *Loose Translations*.

**Donia Jornod** is a transmedia artist born with the premises of the internet. She currently lives and works in Zürich. Her work focuses on the perceptible limits of reality through the human body, which she understands as an echo of a political state.

**Norman Musung** ran a corner shop in inner-city Sydney, Australia, between 1991 and 2017. The opening hours were 6 am to 7 pm on weekdays and 7 am to noon on weekends. Since retiring, he enjoys cycling, eating lunch at cafés, and travelling.

**Poster** Ida Lawrence, *Two for One* (work in progress, detail), 2023, acrylic and oil on polycotton canvas, painted wall. Installation: 328 x 470cm; diptych: 180 x 120 cm each. Courtesy the artist. Photo: Eric Bell



\$2.41

