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## Kristin Hersh, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London

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Hersh has always chatted between songs at solo gigs, sometimes discussing the origin of a song or an interesting or funny event that happened on the day she wrote it, the loosely told recollections suiting the occasion well. Tonight she reads directly from printed sheets - it's clear that each sentence has been lovingly crafted, carefully created to squeeze the utmost resonance out of the memories, to give respect to the people, places and events she describes. The performance is part literature reading, comedy routine, theatrical monologue, philosophical discussion, gig and video art screening, and as such is utterly unique. What other musician has created an art piece out of describing the process of the musical art they create? How many would even dare to try?

A pioneer on many levels - she was the first artist to sell digital downloads of her music online, she created a vibrant online community on ThrowingMusic.com and is now building a new model of music distribution with the CASH Music project - with *Paradoxical Undressing* Hersh shows how artistic output can (and should) be in many and various forms, encompassing every aspect of life and experience and creating something brave, powerful and very beautiful.

**Try Kristin Hersh if you like:** Throwing Muses, Patti Smith, Sylvia Plath

Review by *Laura Kidd*

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