### VISUAL

The image is **puzzling**. Two nude women appear **superimposed** on a wall covered in graffiti. We can see neither woman’s face - one is turned away, the other is **obscured** by a window. We could be looking at one woman and her **reflection** in a mirror. Are the wall and graffiti two separate images? The **juxtaposition** of these multi-layered elements creates a slightly sinister, dreamlike mood. The **composition** is dense and compact with an almost claustrophobic sense of space. The figure and wall have been **cropped** so any sense of visual context has been removed. The **title** is confusing - a sailor’s home is aboard ship. Perhaps this place is in a port frequented by sailors. Who is the woman and what relationship does she have with the sailors? What is the **significance** of the text?

### TECHNICAL

This image has been **constructed** in the **darkroom** from at least two **negatives**. This process requires **experimentation**, **development** and **refinement**. Evidence suggests that the photographer attempted several different **combinations of negatives**. He would have used **dodging** and **burning** techniques to balance the **tones** in the image, making **subtle judgements** about relative exposure times for different parts of the image.

### CONTEXTUAL

Hajek-Halke worked in Germany (and Switzerland), experiencing both **world wars**, but attempting to work independently of the government. He was an **anarchist**. He worked as a **photo editor**, **press photographer** and **commercial artist**, concentrating almost from the start on **montage techniques**. He also became expert in **industrial and aerial photography**. He pioneered a kind of **subjective photographic practice**, **experimenting** in the **darkroom** with a wide range of **techniques** including **multiple exposures** and **camera less photography**. He co-founded the **Fotoform group** with Otto Steiner. There are several **other versions** of this image featuring different combinations of figure and wall imagery.

### CONCEPTUAL

- Photomontage - the juxtaposition of two different images
- Metaphor - the sum greater than the individual parts. A type of visual poetry
- The nude - disrupting conventional representations of the human form. Compare with art historical precedents
- Surrealism - images from a dream, the relationship between people and the urban landscape. Automatism
- Darkroom experimentation - the happy accident
- Gender politics - how might a feminist interpret this image?
- Photography and reality - how does this image question this relationship?

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