



## **“Democracy booth” 16<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> November Programme & info**

A week of talks, discussions, a polling booth & maybe a soap box, tea and cake, listening posts, audio interviews and maybe the odd film.

The week is being hosted and run by Claremont Studios CIC with ONE TWO ONE art& architecture’s Mary Hooper and Elise Liversedge who have invited guest speakers and anyone else who wants to pop in to discuss Women and Democracy, voting, women’s position in a cultural landscape and how we make a mark.

Speakers for the weekend include Xaverine Bates an artist and feminist activist , Ann Kramer a local author and authority on Local Women’s History, Rohan Jayasekera an international journalist. and Claire Foster-Gilbert a moral philosopher and theologian based at Westminster Abbey.

Hopefully visited by local MP Amber Rudd and Labour’s Sarah Owen. and local councillors.

### **Daily Programme**

#### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> ` November**

##### **1100- 12.00 “art and the feminist revolution.”**

An illustrated talk with artist Xaverine Bates  
‘riart Grrrls’ founder Xaverine Bates will give a whistle-stop illustrated tour of feminist artists that have shaped our consciousness & political awareness, which will be a selection of personal favourites, rather than a comprehensive art history lesson. She’ll be talking about the intersection between art & activism in the current wave of contemporary global feminism with reference to activist artists such



as the Guerrilla Girls, Pussy Riot, Yoko Ono & Molly Crabapple amongst many others.

She'll explain the impetus behind initiating riart Grrrls: Hastings & St Leonards' feminist arts collective, which has been active in highlighting sexism and misogyny in our society through the arts since September 2012., so far initiating a campaign against proposals for a strip club in JD Bar in Hastings, which was successfully overturned; organised a flashmob for One Billion Rising with Hastings Women's Voice; co-curated Domestic Disturbance for International Women's Day 2013 with the School Creative Centre; hosted a local female author series at Claremont Studios, featuring local authors such as AK Benedict, Penny Pepper and Ann Kramer; and curated green:purple, a week of events celebrating 21<sup>st</sup> century Suffragettes for Coastal Currents this year. She will talk about the power of online activism and will highlight rG's plans for future events, such as Hastings Ladyfest for International Women's Day 2014.

Xaverine is an artist, feminist activist, educator and founder of riart Grrrls and aGender, which aims to explore the way that gender is portrayed in society with young people from all socio-economic backgrounds and diverse family structures, using creative media e.g. visual and performing arts, film and writing and how these stereotypes affect the choices they make about relationships.

### **12.00 - 14.00 hrs**

an opportunity to chat about the talk and contribute to the democracy booth sound wall by taking part in our audio interviews on voting and making our mark. Maybe watch a film in the TV room or access via the internet the other projects going on in Parliament Week on the Blog

### **14.00 -1800 hrs**

(Talks and discussions time slots to be confirmed )

**“Should women overcome the 80-20 rule”**

a talk and discussion topic by Claire Foster-Gilbert a moral philosopher and theologian.

Claire is Founder-Director of Westminster Abbey Institute which promotes moral and spiritual values in government. She is a moral philosopher and theologian, having read Theology at Balliol College, Oxford, and then specialised in the ethics of medical research on humans at King's College, London, where she is now reading for a Doctorate. Claire was formerly adviser to the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England in science, medicine, technology and environmental issues, and a Lay Canon at St Paul's Cathedral where she co-founded the Institute for ethics.

Claire has several times been 'the first woman' or 'the only woman': on the Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral, on Boards and Committees of other public entities. She is deeply interested in and concerned about the role of women in public life. How can women authentically participate as public leaders when the paradigm of engagement is often combative, so that to succeed women have to push themselves forward? Should women overcome the 80-20 rule (whereby they are only happy speaking publicly about a subject they are 80% knowledgeable about, whereas men are confident at the 20% knowledge level), or should they change the rule? Don't we want people who know what they are talking about and who work together for the common good rather than being individually pushy? But does that mean that women have to replace men? What would it look like if the male/female skills were combined?

(Followed by )

**“The challenges and opportunities facing women active in parliamentary democracies around the world.”** a talk and discussion topic by Rohan Jayasekera is an international journalist. Rohan Jayasekera is a journalist and online producer, currently developing and directing a new programme of independent creative investigative journalism, publishing and advocacy projects. He lives in Bexhill.

He is the former deputy CEO of the award-winning magazine and advocacy group Index on Censorship and managing editor of the Institute for War & Peace Reporting. As a journalist he has covered datelines including Bosnia, Palestine, Afghanistan and Iraq. He is currently researching new ways to apply emerging digital media tools to the collection, analysis and publication of evidence of human rights abuse, and studying the impact of media narratives on the growth of nationalist, ethnic & sectarian conflicts as part of his MSc studies at Birkbeck College.

***Tea and cake/nibbles will be on tap.***

***Followed by a trip to the pub.***

*Or If people want to stay later or we find a film to watch, the day may go on into the evening*

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**

**13.00 – 1700.hrs**

**14.00- 15.00hrs**

‘Women & Democracy, an historical viewpoint’ focusing on some of the early feminists and suffragettes who did so much to open the doors for women and democracy. Highlighting some of the areas local women e.g. Barbara Leigh Smith. A talk and discussion by Ann Kramer Author and Historian.

Ann Kramer is a freelance writer and historian, Ann’s published books are non-fiction, as opposed to novels, and she has written for children and adults: and currently commissioned mainly to write for adults. Main subject matter is History and women’s history in particular, with topics ranging from Victorians and suffragettes through to human rights and land girls and recently writing much about women’s lives

during wartime, with her most recent book, *Women Wartime Spies*, published by Pen & Sword last year. And recently completing a book on Second World War conscientious objectors.

**1530.- 1700 hr**

**SOAP BOX** discussion with anyone who wants to take the stand which could involve highlighting topics that we want to start to address in our local and national world.

Also an opportunity to chat about the talk and contribute to the democracy booth sound wall by taking part in our audio interviews on voting and making our mark. Maybe watch a film in the TV room or access via the internet the other projects going on in Parliament Week on the Blog

***Tea and cake/nibbles will be on tap.***

*If people want to stay later or we find a film to watch, the day may go on into the evening*

**CLOSED Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November**

**11.00 – 1600 hrs**

**An open gallery with the Democracy Booth ‘polling station,’ sound and post-it note wall installation**

During this gallery open period we will also invite weekly shoppers to take part in a ‘making your mark’ post it note wall adjacent to the ‘have your say ‘ sound wall.

Claremont Studios is on Kings Rd St. Leonards a busy thoroughfare with an interested group of people so hopefully they will be persuaded to have a break in their routine.

Also maybe watch a film in the TV room or access via the free wifi the other projects going on in Parliament Week on the Blog.

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what are we doing with all the info – initially:

**the interviews will be loaded onto our soundcloud /facebook and finally onto our website.**

**Images from the week will also be uploaded onto facebook and website (with permissions)**

**Elise, Mary & members of Claremont Studio's CIC**