

# Motive/Motif:

## Artists Commemorate the Suffragettes

*.. the whole difference is the difference of motive.... & I contend that if you recognise the motive you should also recognise the provocation*

Suffragette, Frances Parker (1875-1924)

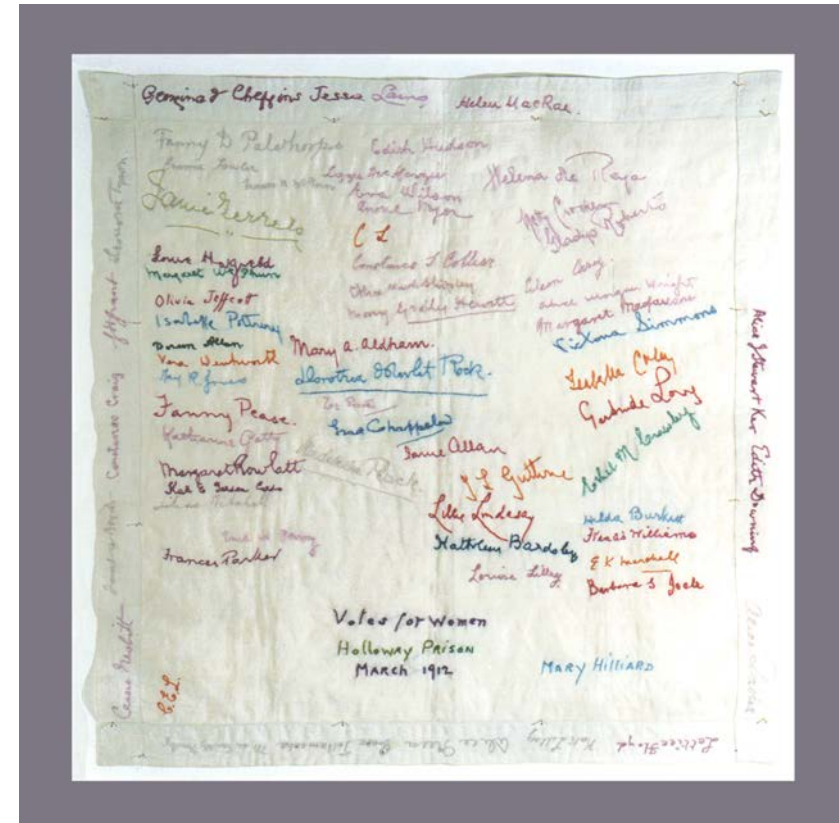
# Overview

LCF invited 20 renowned and emerging artists to each create an image which was embroidered onto a handkerchief to commemorate Women's Suffrage and the passing of the 1918 Representation of the People Act. The starting point for this project was a handkerchief, embroidered in 1912 by women suffragettes who were imprisoned at Holloway Prison.

Most of the women who signed the handkerchief participated in demonstrations in March 1912 organised by the Women's Social & Political Union. They were denied the status of political prisoners and many were force-fed.

The significance of the image on the handkerchief goes far beyond this modest embroidered object. Its beauty belies the women's struggle and suffering whilst revealing their bond with the embroidered word.

While men might have more commonly lived by their pen, the needle gave women agency in education (by learning to read and write whilst simultaneously learning their trade), employment and, where economically and materially possible, in their creativity and self-definition. The stitched word could therefore be seen as a crafted unifier between women of different class and cultural backgrounds.



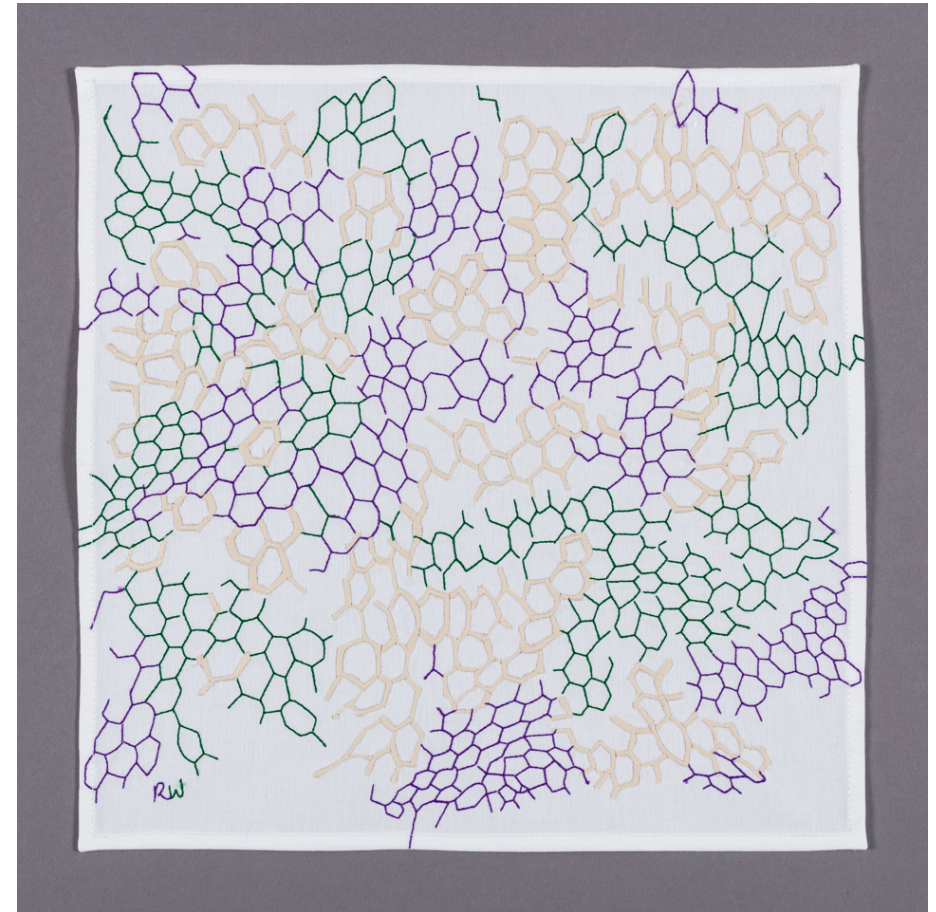
Suffragette handkerchief, 1912. Priest House, West Hoathly.

# Content

The exhibition consists of 20 handkerchiefs each created in collaboration with the specialist embroidery team at LCF.

The artists are: Ghada Amer, Chila Burman, Anthony Burrill, Jo Cope, Dorothy Cross, Phoebe English, Molly Goddard, Mona Hatoum, Charlotte Hodes, Anne Howeson, Peter Kennard, Sarah Lucas, Heather Phillipson, Celia Pym, Daniel Ramoso, Anila Rubiku, Francesca Smith, Helen Storey, Sage Townsend and Rachel Whiteread.

The handkerchiefs are each approximately 28cm<sup>2</sup>



Handkerchief by Rachel Whiteread.

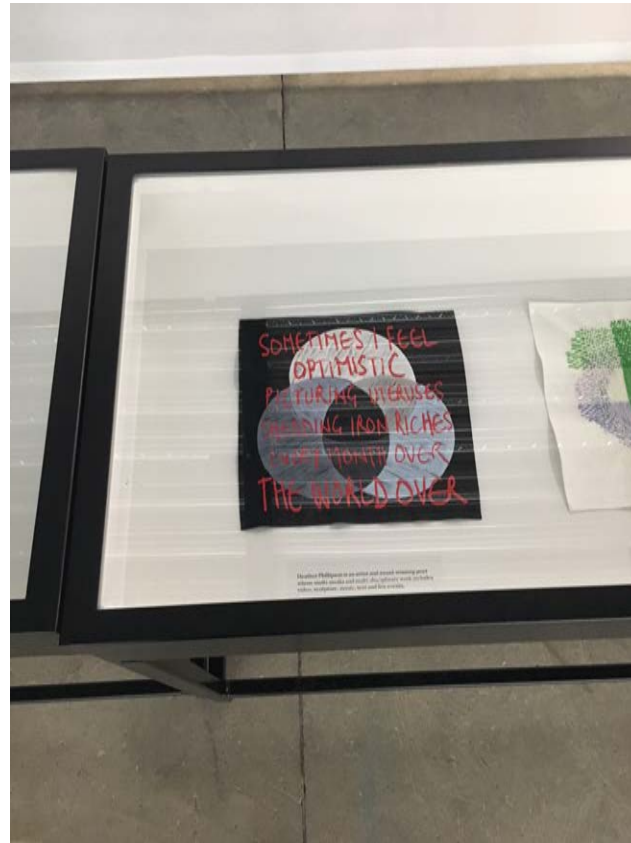
# The Exhibition

## Exhibition venues to date:

1. Open Doors, Here East, London, 22 July, 2018.
2. Buckingham Palace, London 28 November 2018
3. [Vestry House Museum](#), London 24 January - 9 June 2019
4. Bunka Gukuen University, Tokyo 20 September - 4 October 2019
5. The Appleby Gallery, Frances Bardsley Academy for Girls, Women's History Month, March 2020



# Installation images from first venue, Here East, London, 22 July 2018



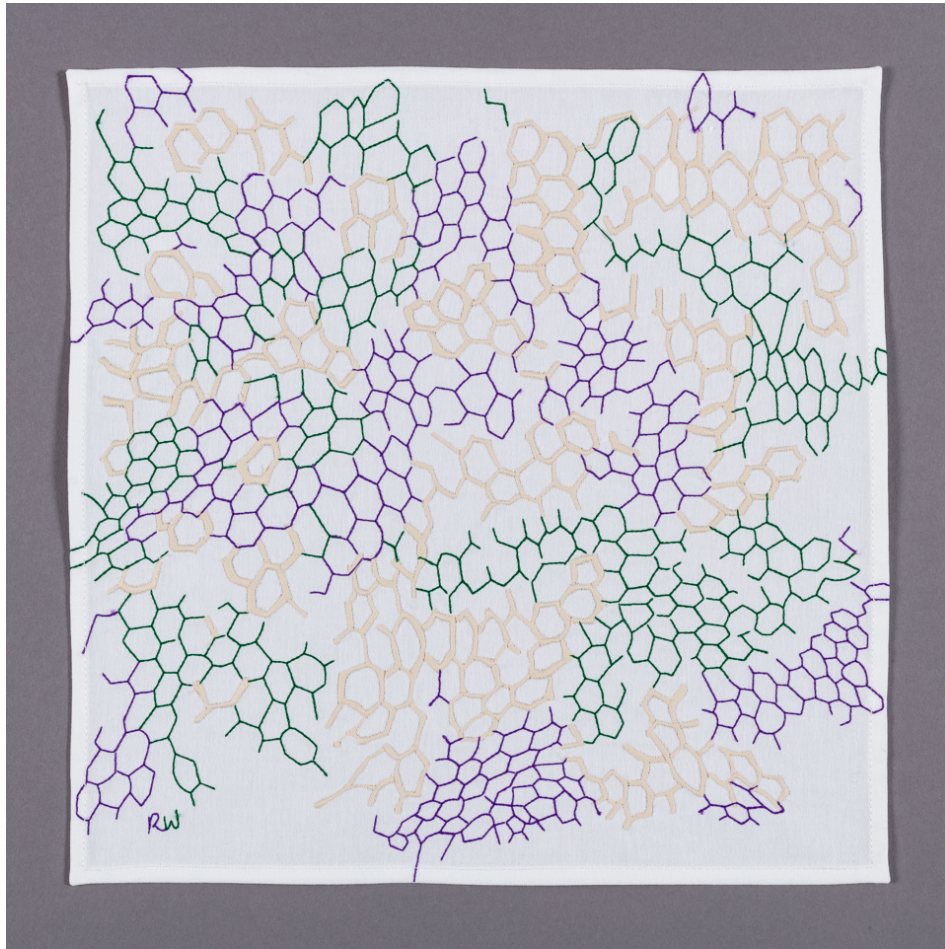
# Participants

## Sarah Lucas



Sarah Lucas is synonymous with the Young British Artists of the 1990s. Her characteristically bawdy visual language confronts sexism, sexuality, death and gender.

# Rachel Whiteread



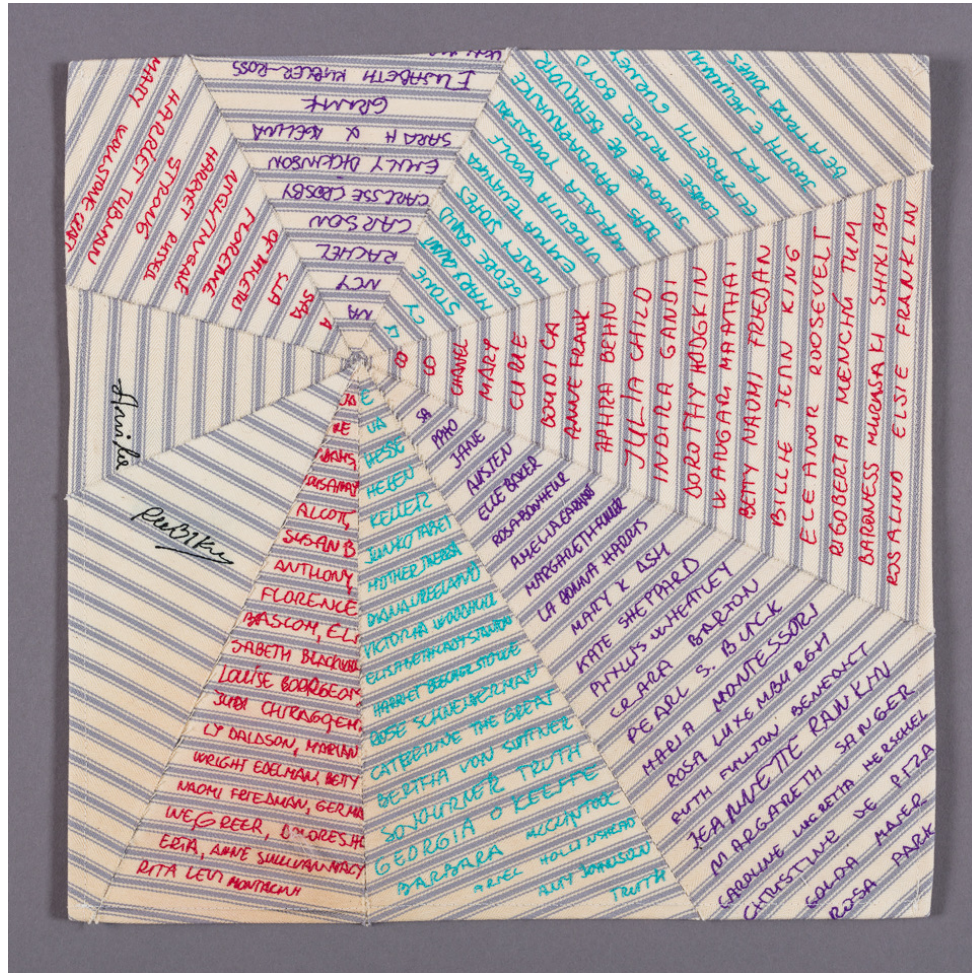
Rachel Whiteread is an internationally renowned sculptor whose practice has become synonymous with the negative space within or around everyday objects and architecture.

# Ghada Amer



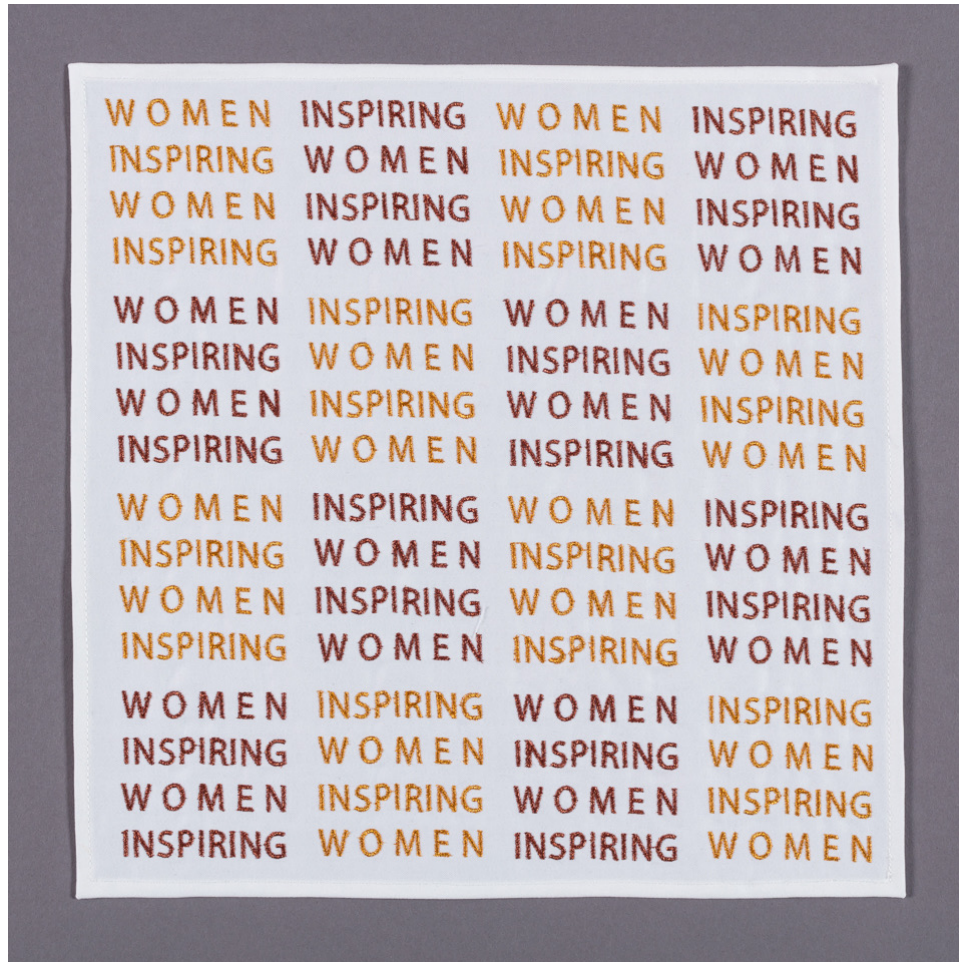
Egyptian-born artist Ghada Amer is widely known for her embroidered canvases with sexually charged scenes made tender by the use of a needle and thread.

# Anila Rubiku



Albanian artist Anila Rubiku works across sculpture, installation, drawing and embroidery exploring socio- political themes including immigration, dictatorships and the justice system.

# Mona Hatoum



Mona Hatoum challenges contradictions and complexities of today's world through juxtaposition of opposites, engaging us in conflicting emotions of desire and revulsion, fear and fascination.

# Charlotte Hodes



Charlotte Hodes engages the languages of fine and decorative arts and works with archives to inform her collages which depict the motif of the female figure.

# Peter Kennard



Peter Kennard uses photomontage to address major political issues of our times, including his work for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament movement during the 1970s and 80s.

# Anthony Burrill



Anthony Burrill is a graphic artist and printmaker known for his text-based compositions which amplify everyday phrases through the boldness and simplicity of his designs.

# Helen Storey



Helen Storey is a designer and academic whose research focuses on new technologies in the science and arts, emotional literacy, well-being and innovative environmental solutions.

# Molly Goddard



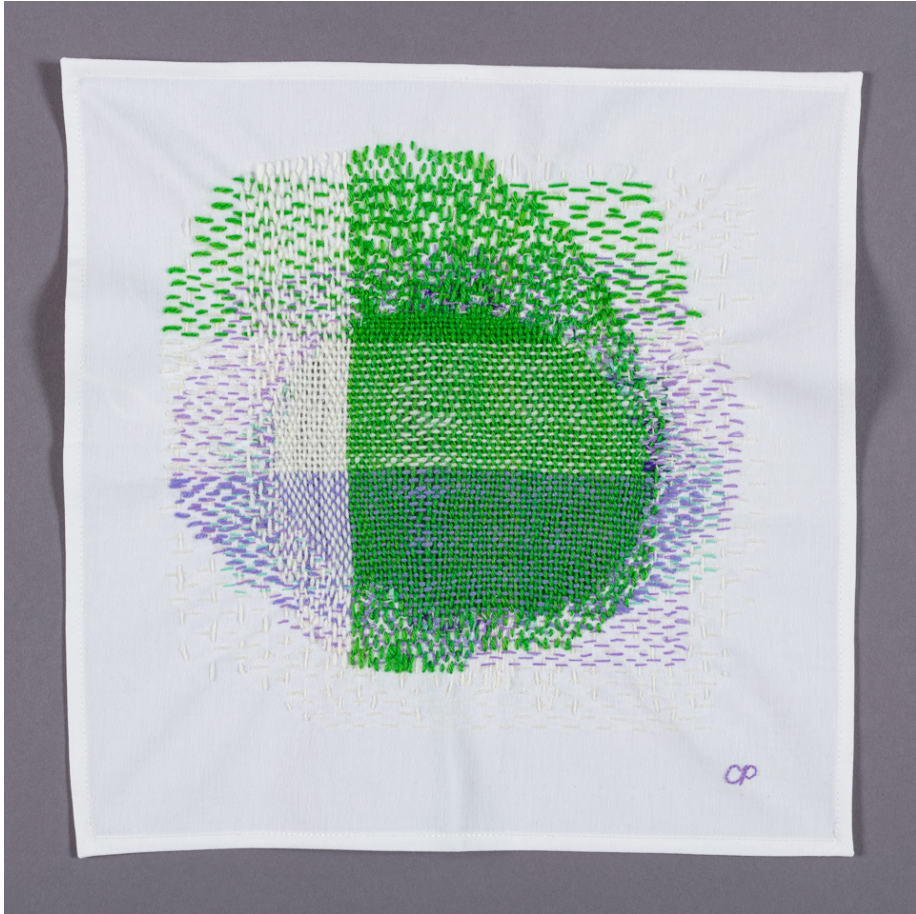
Fashion designer Molly Goddard applies traditional hand-craft techniques such as hand pleating, smocking and crocheting to collections that reflect on themes of special occasions.

## Phoebe English



Fashion designer Phoebe English works against the principles of fast fashion by producing collections entirely in England with an interest in textiles innovation.

# Celia Pym



Celia Pym is a textile artist fascinated by understanding objects through their materiality. Pym imbues new meanings and artistry into objects through mending and repair.

# Chila Burman



Multi-media artist Chila Burman draws on her Indian heritage, fashion, Bollywood, politics of femininity, sexuality and authorship to explore experiences and aesthetics of Asian femininity.

# Daniel Ramoso



Daniel Ramos explores the relationship between fashion, crafts and social studies, presenting aspects of the human condition such as gender, sex and body diversity.

# Sage Townsend



Sage Townsend is an artist and designer/maker whose work explores cross-cultural dialogue around attitudes and aesthetic values relating to the female form.

## Jo Cope



Jo Cope's work spans fashion, art and craft. Her hand-kerchief is a metaphor for the positively transforming and self-supporting woman, through the symbol of the vote.

## Heather Phillipson



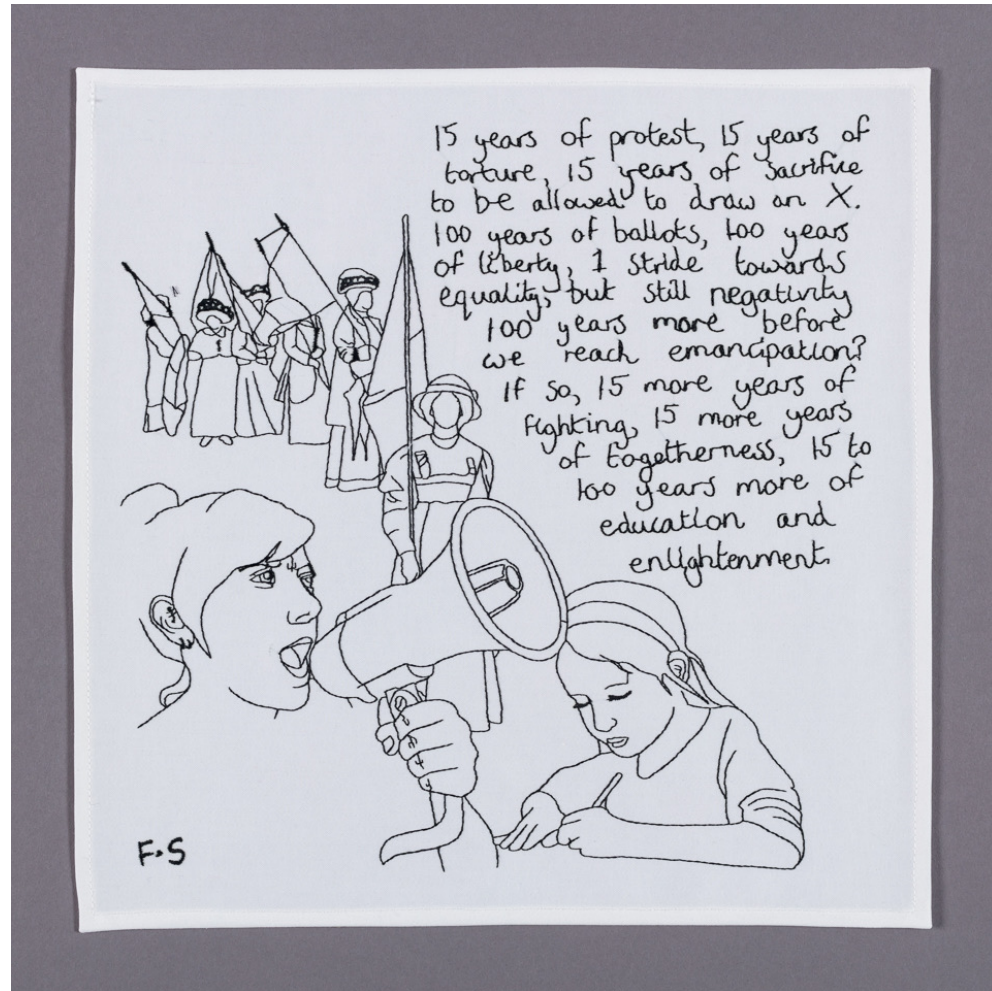
Heather Phillipson is an artist and award-winning poet whose multi-media and multi-disciplinary work includes video, sculpture, music, text and live events.

# Anne Howeson



Anne Howeson is an artist and educator whose work focuses on socio/political issues and storytelling about everyday life, often dealing with shared memory and collective concerns.

# Francesca Smith



Francesca Smith is a jewellery and accessory designer who use her work to challenge gender inequality in the pursuit of equal rights.

## Dorothy Cross



Dorothy Cross, one of Ireland's leading international artists, works with diverse media, including sculpture, photography, video and installation. She is engaged with themes around sexual and cultural identity, personal history and memory.

*Motive/Motif: Artists Commemorate the Suffragettes* was co-curated by Charlotte Hodes Artist & Professor in Fine Art at London College of Fashion, UAL and Alison Moloney, Curator, Writer, Consultant.