

The Art of Suff-Rage

Celebrating the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Victoria 1908-2008

Fourth Edition

Winter 2008

FREE

Celebrating Vida Goldstein



Ceramic Suffragists by Ursula Dutkiewicz



'Suffragists' Ursula and Fern



Vida Goldstein banner by Fern Smith

Threads through time

a short sketch of Vida Goldstein

Vida Goldstein (1869 -1949) actively increased the repertoire of women's issues for equality and pacifism thereby forging a name for herself at a state, national and international level. At twenty-one she assisted her mother in the collection of signatures for the 1891 monster petition and became a protégé of Annette Bear-Crawford. Crawford, one of the suffragist founders in Victoria taught Vida public speaking and fund raising skills. The most notable of these was her contribution to raising funds (the Shilling Fund) for the purchase of the Queen Victoria building a hospital for Women (1899). Gracia Baylor, the first female Liberal Member (1979- 1985) of the Legislative Council, noticed the Queen Victoria Hospital building which had been purchased by the women of Victoria through the Shilling Fund was up for sale by the state government and alerted both the government and the citizens of Victoria. This observation planted the seeds for "The Queen Victoria Action Campaign" through which the women of Victoria gained victory in 1994.

Vida Goldstein filled a void and became a leader for the rights of women when Annette Bear-Crawford died in 1899. Vida had the ability to work co-operatively with other organisations and within a year, there were thirty-two affiliate associations with the United Council for Woman

Suffrage (UCWS), of which Vida was an active member. Today this tactic of affiliation is still in use with women's organisations and associations.

Goldstein saw beyond getting the vote that women had achieved federally and resigned from UCWS in 1901 to champion political aspirations for women. One of the ways she felt this could be achieved was through publishing and editing "The Australian Women's Sphere" from 1903 to 1905. Goldstein saw that women's equality would remain "as side issues" (Goldstein 1911) unless women stood for parliament, and so she formed the Women's Political Association of Victoria in 1903. The aim was for the political education of women while she herself stood for parliament five times from 1903 - 1917. Her legacy has been slow to realise and even today, both the state of Victoria and the federal governments have just over 30% representation of women.

Goldstein edited and published "The Woman Voter" her second newspaper (1909-1919) and founded the Women's Peace Army (1915-1919) both holding a clear message for pacifism including anti conscription. The anti conscription debate ignited by Vida continued to rage until 1972 when conscription of any kind was repealed.

Doris Blackburn (1889-1970) in 1911 became a member of the Women's Political Association and Vida Goldstein's campaign secretary in 1913. As Vida's popularity waned, Blackburn carried the mantle encompassing women's equality, civil liberties, peace advocacy and extending her repertoire to include indigenous rights (Doris was a co-founder of the Aboriginal Advancement League). Although Vida did not succeed in gaining a seat in Parliament, Doris became an independent member in the House of Representatives from 1946 until 1949.

It is timely we pay tribute to the rigorous efforts of Vida Goldstein, who worked half a century for the equality of women. Women still have not achieved full equality for example; the pay gap is still 33.8% (ABS 2005) lower than men's income. Her voice, the struggle for women's equality and peace, still resonate through the threads of time.

Fern Smith

The Art of Suff-Rage
FOR HIRE
Roving suffragists, Art installation
and Workshops
Information and bookings
e:ursula@ursuladutkiewicz.com m:0402712648
e:fern@fernartz.com m: 0408978747

The Art of Suff-Rage

Celebrating the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Victoria 1908-2008

Fourth Edition

Winter 2008

FREE

Become a part of history!

Artists Ursula Dutkiewicz and Fern Smith have joined forces as part of the 2008 Centenary of Suffrage Celebrations in Victoria to create The Art of Suff-Rage travelling art installation. This is a multi-dimensional project that is scalable and module-based, enabling custom-built events.

It aims to be a creative, fun, educational and informative event promoting awareness for equality and inclusion.

The multimedia art installation in its entirety includes Ursula and Fern dressed as Suffragists, "The Art of Suff-Rage" newspaper, slide presentations, 100 ceramic suffragist's sculptures, ten commemorative banners and a workshop program.

The first aspect of the project sees the artists dressed in period costume giving out the latest edition of The Art of Suff-Rage newspaper. This paper gives a running update on the project's activities, the adventures of the 'suffragists' and has pictorial documentations using creative graphic interpretations. "Suffragists" Ursula and Fern are keen to share their insights and the stories of their adventures with those interested in Centenary Celebrations, the history of 'Votes for Women', as well as creative processes and research in art making. They add a colorful authentic atmosphere to any occasion and their talents to date have been successfully utilized statewide. Their activities have included; media events, interviews, presentations, facilitation of story circles, artist talks and roving Suffragists.

The second aspect is the presentation of the **art installation**, which aims to highlight the courage and determination of those whose rage brought about the vote for Victorian women. The installation consists of 100 ceramic suffragist sculptures (each approximately 30 centimetres tall) and ten commemorative banners (approximately one meter square). It is possible to lease components of the installation, for example, the commemorative banners or ceramic suffragists.

The third aspect is the **workshop programme**, which offers a wide variety of creative activities including badge, banner making and ceramic sculpture. The workshops can be tailored made to suit your requirements.



Ursula Dutkiewicz at work

Ursula has an extensive history in running ceramic workshops and has been specifically designing workshops for people of all ages and abilities for many years. These include for festivals, schools, children's parties, adult classes and artist residencies.

Fern an artist for more than twenty-five years has held exhibitions throughout Australia and holds works in private collections in Australia and overseas. Her design and interactive media experience has been utilised in assisting with women's organisations, art-folio and presentation, multimedia presentations, and workshop/lectures at RMIT University



Fern in her studio



St Kilda
Historical Society

PO Box 177, Balaclava
3183

www.vicnet.net.au/~hsosk

Office: St Kilda Library

E-mail: nfo@skhs.org.au

Secretary: 9537 1967

The society fosters interest in St Kilda and Port Phillip City.

It actively ensures that the heritage and cultural character of the area is documented as much as possible and is indebted to our volunteers

Gasworks Arts Park
proudly supports women artists and performers

For venue hire contact
frontdesk@gasworks.org.au or phone 8606 4200

Gasworks Theatre
The venue is particularly suited to productions where intimate contact between the audience and the performers is required. The modular seating system can enable seating for between 66 and 250 patrons in various configurations.

Studio Theatre
seats up to 60 patrons

Garden Studio
Rehearsal space or classes for up to 20 people

Angela Roberts-Bird Gallery and Foyer & Gasbar
for visual art exhibitions

Gasworks Arts Park
Cnr Graham & Pickles Sts
Albert Park Vic 3206
t: 03 8686 4200
www.gasworks.org.au



Diary Dates for Winter

1st August: 'Suffragist' Ursula Dutkiewicz will be attending a lunch in Burwood at Bennettswood Neighbourhood Centre

10th August: 'Suffragists' Ursula Dutkiewicz and Fern Smith are holding banner and ceramic workshops for the festival at Haddon Community Centre. Free event

***** 15th August 11am -1pm:** We will gather on the steps of the St. Kilda Town Hall in honour of Vida Goldstein, internationally renowned suffragist, on the anniversary of her death.

The steps will be adorned with, a commemorative sculpture of Vida Goldstein, ninety- nine of her fellow ceramic suffragists and ten campaign banners to honour the legacy of women campaigning for equality.
Free event ***

21 August: 'Suffragist' Ursula Dutkiewicz traversing the country side to Euroa to attend Strathbogie Shire Women Recognizing and Celebrating 100 Years of Voting Rights.

June - September Fern will be working on completing an eight meter paneled painting on the 100 years of women campaigning in Victoria.

Sponsors



Knowing our past, transforming our future



The Age of Suff-Rage would like to thank St. Kilda Historical Society Gasworks Arts Park, Crusader Hillis, Ian Roberts (Harold Mitchell Foundation), Joan Kirner, Terry Bracks, Kris Coad, Women's Circus and the Office of Women's Policy Victoria, League of Women Voters Victoria, Women's Electoral Lobby Victoria.