

Herstory Comes To Hove

In the run up to International Women's Day, students from Hove Park School will be taking part in a ground-breaking initiative to recognise the women who have helped shaped history. The *Herstory* project, created by art graduate Alice Wroe, uses an interactive art exhibition to teach pupils about women's history missing from the national curriculum.

Alice who said: "I'm really excited about working with students from Hove Park School. The classes aim to promote critical thinking, develop confidence and provide young people with a more inclusive history in which to negotiate the world".

The project is part of Brighton & Hove's first ever festival dedicated to women in history which takes place on **Saturday 14 March** at the **Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton**. The *Herstory* exhibition will be on display at the one-day event which runs from 10am to 6pm. Festival participants will be able to see the pupils' response to the artwork and will be invited to add theirs too.

Catherine Jessey, Associate Assistant Head Teacher At Hove Park School said: "We're really excited to be part of the Festival and to work with Alice. It will help us on our journey towards developing a generation of students who have a greater awareness of gender equality. This work will help them develop an understanding of different people's experiences and perspectives, as well as the historical, social and cultural influences that have affected people in the past and which continue to influence gender relations into the future. We're looking forward to sharing our work with the public as part of the exhibition and we hope you enjoy it!".

The festival has been organised by Free University Brighton, a project that creates free and accessible educational events across the City. The free event is open to all and features talks, walking tours, workshops, films, exhibitions and activities for children.

Participants will discover the Brighton & Hove Suffragettes, the African Princess in Brighton, the women who inspired the Trades Union movement and many others who shaped today's world but have been overlooked by history.

People can find more information about the Women's History Festival on the Free University Brighton website: **freeuniversitybrighton.org**

A crowdfunder page has been set up to raise money for the Festival. Donations to keep the event free and accessible to all will be gratefully received. The website is **crowdfunder.co.uk/brighton-womens-history-festival**

Editor's notes:

1. For more information email: contact@freeuniversitybrighton.org
2. The full festival programme can be downloaded here <http://bit.ly/1EnokAG>
3. The Festival is on Saturday 14 March from 10am to 6pm at the Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton. BN1 1YD. It is a short walk from Brighton Station just off Queens Road. The centre is fully accessible to wheelchair users and has a café which will be open throughout the day.
4. The *Herstory* Project uses art to engage young people with women's history not in the school curriculum. It is influenced by Judy Chicago's iconic feminist artwork the Dinner Party in which 39 elaborate place settings arranged along a triangular table for 39 mythical and historical famous women. Through the *Herstory* project, young people are given the tools to challenge sexism and the culture we live in, or at least think about it differently. They will develop confidence and feel empowered to a history they do not normally have access to. Herstory can be found on Twitter @herstory_uk
5. Brighton & Hove has around 94 blue plaques marking the dwelling places of historical figures around the City, only 21 (approximately one fifth) are of women. The City has remarkably few statues or monuments of women.