

Thursday 3rd March 2011

THE UNIVERSITY *of York*

CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

TALKS

No registration needed: just turn up for these *free* talks, all welcome.

City Screen Basement, Coney St, York

10.00-11.30 Radical film-makers discussed by Emma Corbett-Ashby

Kings Manor, Exhibition Square, York

2.30-3.15: Ebtihal Mahadeen & Deena Dajani discuss the ongoing political changes in Arab countries.

3.30-4.30: Kira Cochrane discusses feminist activism over the past 4 decades. Kira recently published *Women of the Revolution: Forty years of feminism*, and is a former Guardian Women's editor.

WORKSHOPS

limited numbers, advance booking essential: <http://tinyurl.com/fca-tickets>
details: www.feminist-cultural-activism.net and see below

City Screen, Coney Street, York

10.00-3.30: Radical Filming (£15). Presentation followed by practical workshop on making your own short film. Bring your video camera or borrow one of ours.

Space 109, Walmgate, York (near Walmgate Bar)

All materials supplied – but bring your knickers to the bunting workshop!

10.00-12.00: Quilting in association with Amnesty International (£6).

12.30-3.30: Fun Art Workshop : 'Bad Art' (£8)

1.00-3.00: Knicker Bunting (£6): Make feminist art from your knickers and your stories.

FILMS

6.00-8.30, City Screen, York (no adverts, be prompt). 3 films plus Q+A with directors. £4 in advance from <http://tinyurl.com/fca-tickets>

STREET CARNIVAL

5.00-5.30, Parliament Street, York (by Marks and Spencer) *free*- just turn up, all welcome

Book workshops and film night online now.

Queries and late availability: t: 01904 433671; e: carnival@feminist-cultural-activism.net

Part of a **Carnival of feminist cultural activism** 3-5 March 2011. Everyone interested in gender and change very welcome to some or all of the carnival. Details on www.feminist-cultural-activism.net

Thursday Workshop Details

Book in advance on <http://tinyurl.com/fca-tickets> queries: carnival@feminist-cultural-activism.net

Quilting with Amnesty International 10.00-12.00 Space 109, Walmgate £6, all materials supplied.

In this two-hour workshop we join forces with the York Amnesty International group. This year the York AI group is making a community quilt celebrating the values upon which Amnesty was founded, and taking inspiration from the words of Amnesty founding member, Peter Benenson: 'Better Light a Candle than curse the Darkness'. Amnesty York have given us 2 squares for the community quilt (most groups get one!) and people may work on these squares, or make their own.

The three Amnesty squares will be part of a larger quilt which Amnesty York hope will be displayed in York Minster to mark Human Rights Day in December, 2011. Additional squares may be sewn together by participants to make a feminist wall hanging, or taken home.

All materials supplied – and many thanks to York City Council for a bag of goodies. However, feel free to bring any materials of your own if you wish.

The workshop will be led by quilting expert Catherine Shaw.

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Bad Art Workshop: "Can't art? Won't art!" 12.30-3.30, Space 109, Walmgate. £8, all materials supplied.

This workshop is not about crafting versus art or even what makes good or bad art but instead is a practical event designed to encourage participants to create works of art without the fear of being judged not good enough.

The workshop is open to everyone. Our aim is to break down gendered ideas about crafting and 'low art'. We will explore creativity as activism; extend the joy and discoveries of this work into other areas of life; and help lessen fear to overcome feelings of 'I can't do that'. We will encourage the fun-side and communal silliness of activism – an element that is important to all forms of activism. Not being afraid of judgment or failure will help overcome boundaries and restrictions that often hold people back.

The first half will comprise a series of snappy exercises designed to inspire and remove inhibitions. Attendees will be encouraged to use many of the materials and techniques we introduce. The second half of the workshop will be a 'free-style' crafting session where people can build on techniques they have discovered and/or work on projects and ideas that they have brought with them. We will provide most of the materials but it would be great if you can bring one or more things from this list: scissors, glue, paper, glitter, a plain t-shirt and anything else you might want to make art with!

Becky Sanchez is an art historian and **Corinna Tomrley** is a pop culture scholar. Where it may seem that their academic disciplines place them on opposite sides of the high culture/low culture scale, they share a strikingly similar aesthetic love for trash and 'bad' art. Their own adventures in crafting and bad art without fear make them the ideal facilitators of this unusual workshop. Their crafting hero is gem-sweater curator Leslie Hall.

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‘Show Us Your Knickers!’ Carnival Knicker Bunting – textile workshop information £6, bring your knickers and your story.

Want to take part in a unique feminist social art project? Then send me your knickers!

This is a two-hour practical workshop, which is part discussion and part stitch. It is run by Julia Triston – a textile artist and designer – and the creator of the Bra-ra Dress (<http://www.bra-ra-dresses.com>). Julia’s artwork is about the investigation of identity, and the issues surrounding this; her work involves recycling underwear to make a statement about our bodies, fashion and feminism.

There is a request for knickers to be donated in advance of this workshop, from all delegates attending the conference but knickers may also be brought along on the day.

In the workshop we will create a string of carnival bunting from the knickers. The bunting will become a unique piece of feminist, social artwork, permanently recording, in a very unusual way, attendees at the conference; capturing a moment in time. The final artwork will be displayed at the conference, and then donated to the Centre for Women’s Studies at the University of York.

The aim of the carnival bunting is to show that our underwear can tell a story of its own, whoever we are, and whatever we portray externally. In this piece of artwork, we will be putting on show, proudly and honestly, what is usually unseen and taboo.

To make the bunting knickers will need to be slightly altered, stitched with buttons, and then sewn onto a long length of knicker elastic.

- Are you interested in helping to create this unusual and unique piece of social artwork?
- Can you handle other peoples’ knickers? How does it feel to do so?
- Would you like to come and discuss the issues surrounding the concepts, and practicalities, of putting our most intimate pieces of clothing on public display?
- Are you interested in discussing the taboo subject of underwear with your colleagues, friends, or strangers?
- Would you like to stitch the bunting together?
- Are you intrigued to see what other women have donated?

If the answer to any of the above questions is ‘yes’ – then please sign up for the workshop – no sewing skills are needed and if you don’t wish to stitch, come along for the discussion.

Julia Triston is a practising textile artist/designer and lecturer in stitch, design and surface decoration. She is renowned for her use of colour and embellishment in her textile artwork. Julia is a qualified teacher and an experienced City & Guilds tutor of more than ten years. She runs her own workshop programme from her studio, teaches textile courses in colleges, and runs City & Guilds and Master Classes in Durham through **STITCHBUSINESS** with Tracy A Franklin. www.juliatriston.com

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**Presentation and film-making workshop 1.00-3.30, City Screen Basement, York.
£15, some cameras, but bring your own if you have one. £15.**

This workshop is designed in three parts. It is partly a presentation on radical feminist auto-ethnographic film makers (more information below), followed by a discussion (part 2) on how we as feminists can similarly use film as a tool in our own lives to realise and express our potential, in terms of our ideas, our identities and our politics. What possibilities does film hold for the radical telling of our stories? The third phase is about practical film making. I will discuss some techniques and provide technical support with regards to the cameras (for those not using their own).

The aim of the workshop is for you to create your own short films, either in groups or individually depending on preference, using the inspiration gained from the presentation and working within a selection of creative briefs that we will discuss. We will be using in-camera editing (this will be explained!) and at the end of the session there will be an opportunity for us to screen and discuss what we have made. This is a very user-friendly workshop, no previous experience is required and the emphasis is on ideas rather than technical ability. There is also the option to come to the presentation at the beginning of the workshop and not stay for the full practical workshop, but if you are planning to join in with film making I really recommend you see the presentation as well!

The workshop will be 5 hours long including lunch and some short breaks. *Please bring along a camcorder if you have access to one, we can provide some but in limited numbers*

Presentation More and more women are making films and pushing at the celluloid ceiling to actualise their ambitions. Still more are picking up cameras to tell their stories and try out their creative ideas. This presentation looks at the power of feminist film making to go beyond ratings and 'commercial viability' to become a radical tool for re-visioning our world and ourselves. Featuring the work of veteran and contemporary film makers Chantal Akerman, Gwen Haworth, Birgit Hein, Sadie Benning, Breda Beban and others, we examine the radical feminist potential of women who have turned the lens on themselves to tell powerful narratives that challenge the status quo and fearlessly return the gaze. Themes explored include ageing and sexuality, queer coming out, cultural and political identity, motherhood, gender transition, dealing with death, fantasy escapism and more! As well as examining the content and different approaches of the featured film makers, I will also discuss technique and style. There will also be room in this presentation to open up discussion around finding our own voices using auto-ethnographic film and how we can utilise it as both a tool and a creative outlet.

This presentation is designed to inspire future feminist film makers and bring their awareness to the power of auto-ethnographic film as an activist medium and cultural phenomenon. Also to showcase a number of brilliant feminist film makers who don't get much exposure due to the challenging and non-conformist nature of their work.

Emma Corbett Ashby is a Finnish-English activist, writer, producer/director, performer and all-round creative type. She is from London originally and spent more than 10 years in the north of England before relocating to Berlin in 2009. She studied Art and Film at a post graduate level and has been involved in a number of creative projects, mostly in film and theatre. Her most recent project has been her first stage play, *Exiles*, (co-produced with director El Earthbourne) which premiered at the International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival in 2010. Currently Emma is working on a brand new documentary about fat performance artists as well as being an MA candidate in Visual Anthropology at the Freie University in Berlin. She is also involved in community based activism around mental health, body image and partner abuse.