



PRESS RELEASE: WHALE Arts taking part in PROCESSIONS participatory artwork celebrating 100 years of votes for women

7 June 2018

WHALE Arts' textile group Stitch 'n' Time is taking part in [PROCESSIONS](#) on 10 June, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in a mass artwork to form a living portrait of women in the 21st century.

In 1918, the *Representation of the People Act* gave the first British women the right to vote and stand for public office, a landmark for women's equality and British democracy. 100 years on, [14-18 NOW](#) and [Artichoke](#), the UK's largest producer of art in the public realm, invite thousands of people who identify as female or non-binary from across the UK to walk together in public processions.

Stitch 'n' Time is one of hundreds of community groups to take part in a nationwide programme of banner making. Echoing the artistic practices of the women's suffrage campaign, their beautiful handmade banner is a visual snapshot of women's achievements since 1918. They will join thousands of people wearing green, white or violet, the colours of the suffrage movement; the PROCESSIONS will appear as a flowing river of colour through the streets of Edinburgh, Belfast, Cardiff and London.

This will be the second time the group has been involved in a march for women. On 10 October 2009 the Stitch 'n' Time group participated in the *Gude Cause* march to commemorate the work of Scotswomen involved in the suffrage movement. The event marked 100 years since the women's suffrage procession in Edinburgh in 1909.

Meghan Bidwell, Arts Engagement Manager (Adults), WHALE Arts says:

“WHALE Arts is proud to participate in PROCESSIONS, marking the centenary of women’s suffrage. Our textile group’s banner draws on the rich heritage of female protest and activism, illustrating how far we’ve come and how far we have yet to go.”

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Notes to Editors

About WHALE Arts

Since being set up by local people in 1992 WHALE Arts has firmly established itself as the cultural anchor organisation for Wester Hailes. As a community-led arts charity and social enterprise, WHALE Arts’ mission is to be the creative heart of a vibrant, thriving community.

WHALE acts as a conduit between our community and creative opportunities through the direct delivery of projects, programmes and events and by connecting our community with city and national cultural partners. We are based in the purpose built WHALE Arts Centre – ‘The WHALE’ – a unique community asset that provides a range of high quality creative spaces including an Arts Workshop, Performance Space, Darkroom and Digital Media facilities for our community.

For full details on the WHALE Arts programme, see the website at www.whalearts.co.uk

About PROCESSIONS

PROCESSIONS is commissioned by 14-18 NOW, the UK’s arts programme for the First World War centenary and produced by Artichoke. With support from the National Lottery through Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, and from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Media information

- For enquiries or interviews please contact Meghan Bidwell on Meghan@whalearts.co.uk or call 0131 458 3267.
- Free-to-use images are available by contacting Jenny Salmean on jenny@whalearts.co.uk