

YOUNG MASTERS ART AWARD LLP

Her Court Young Masters 2026 Loraine Rutt FRGS

Work Title - 'Hear Her'

Installation of porcelain Listening Vessels

Individual paired pieces 27cm x 9cm x 6cm

(Half brick plinth 11 x 11 x 6cm Listening Vessels 17 x 5 x 5cm)

- 1 Wimbledon Common
- 2 The Village Club, Wimbledon Museum
- 3 WSPU Shop
- 4 Lawson Johnstone Meeting Rooms
- 5 Wimbledon Theatre
- 6 Dorset Hall

Individual prices £1200 each

Installation set of 6 £7000

Set of 11 £1300

Hear Her celebrates the victory of the suffragettes in getting their voices, and the voices of all UK women that followed them, heard in parliament. It is also a rallying call to hear the voices of all women.

The installation arranges symbols of their struggle and victory presented with each piece geo-referencing the places in Wimbledon where discourse began, conversations flowed, sacrificial prison ordeals healed, and where their stories are stored, celebrated and intertwined.

Inspired by the WSPU Medallion Ware Tea Service in the Wimbledon Museum collection, this work pairs porcelain elements that acknowledge the strength, resilience and comradeship of the Wimbledon WSPU. Based on a rolled copy of the suffragette newsletter 'Votes For Women', each Listening Vessel is inscribed with fragments of diary accounts of Wimbledon locations and WSPU members. Each porcelain brick, an essential building block of civic society, carries a facsimile message from the stones used by Suffragists to smash windows in protest, which has a contemporary resonance with smashing glass ceilings. The globe picks out in gold the countries where women currently have political parity.

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Our registered LLP number is OC368558

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Transcript of each pair of pieces:

1 The Old Pound, Wimbledon Common

From 1908 the WSPU staged meetings here to raise awareness of their fight for the vote. Visiting speaker Alice Abadam noted that the Wimbledon WSPU resembled a 'Well organised army corps, with each woman adopted the arm for which she was best fitted, but all worked together and in harmony for the great cause of votes for women'.

The common also made front page of The Daily Sketch with the headline

'WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS DODGE THE CENSUS BY SPENDING THE NIGHT IN CARAVANS ON WIMBLEDON COMMON' Below the photograph showing suffragettes holding placards printed with 'NO VOTE, NO CENSUS' is the caption

'On Wimbledon Common 2.30am before retiring. 4th April 1911.' The article refers to the Census Resistance policy of militant suffragettes who took action on census night by staying away from their homes refusing to be counted.

Rose Lamartine Yates was an active member of WSPU and regularly chaired meetings on the common. When the government tried to prevent the WSPU from holding public meetings in open spaces Rose maintained the right of free speech on the common, despite facing hostile crowds held back by a large police presence. On Sunday 21st March 1913 Yates addressed an estimated 5000

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people and had to be heavily guarded by 200 police officers and 50 mounted men.

WSPU Brick

NO VOTES NO CENSUS

2 *Wimbledon Museum*

Women's Global Parity

The gold areas on the globe represent countries where women held over 40% of parliamentary seats on 1st January 2025. Source 'Women in Politics' 1st January 2025 world map published United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

WSPU Brick

Pasted Note 1

Global women's rights 2026 show a persistent, uneven landscape. No country has achieved full gender equality. Women currently lead 28 countries, while men hold 72% of parliamentary seats.

*Pasted note 2**

From the Illustrated London News, 9 March 1912. Entitled 'Glass-Smashing for Votes! Suffragettes as window-breakers', the page is printed with illustrations showing suffragettes smashing shop front windows in the West End of London. The article refers to an incident on 1 March where 150 suffragettes armed with toffee hammers and stones broke shop and office windows in the Strand, Cockspur Street, Downing Street, Whitehall, Piccadilly, Bond Street and Oxford Street. 270 premises were damaged by the action and over 220 suffragettes arrested.

**Museum of London Object ID:*

2001.69/79

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- 3 WSPU Shop 6 Victoria Crescent. Wimbledon was one of the most prosperous branches of WSPU, and revenue increased with the opening of the shop. As well as selling copies of Votes For Women newsletter it sold goods including 'Oriental sweet meats, rice and oil, home-made cakes, jams, flowers, eggs and fowl. The shop stocked Medallion China sent from Head Quarters, and was home to a lending library of 80 donated books. It was noted that it was 'one of the most effective ways of keeping our campaign before the public'. Importantly it served as a meeting place and a centre for propaganda, communication, and recruitment. A 'rallying ground' for its speakers and twenty-one voluntary workers. The Wimbledon WSPU held At Homes meetings which were held on Fridays at 3.30pm. The following is an extract from a flyer:

A series of Addresses will be given by ROSE LAMARTINE YATES, as follows:-

Feb. 18. Woman

“ 25. Her right to the Franchise. If not, why not?

Mar. 4. Woman's Fetters

“ 10. The wheel of Destiny

“ 18. Birth and infancy of the woman's movement. Early Pioneers.

Apr. 1. Preparing for action. Early Skirmishes. Suffragist and Suffragette.

“ 15. Victory in Sight

WSPU Brick

DEEDS NOT WORDS

- 4 Lawson Johnstone Meeting Rooms, 6 The Broadway. Set above the prize-winning bakers shop were meeting rooms which he leased for meetings by 'progressive movements'. One of the notable guest speakers was Emily Wilding Davison, a close friend and comrade of Rose Lamartine Yates, who gave a lecture on prison life and prison reform. A contemporary report noted she had 'compelled the crowds close attention for over an hour. Emily's militant actions included 'throwing balls labelled 'BOMB' through windows, entered and hid in the House of Commons 3 times, was the first to set fire to pillar boxes, and she tragically died attempting to add a banner to the King's galloping horse 'Anmer' at The Derby. Her Hunger Strike medal was buried with her.

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On 18th November 1910 Wimbledon WSPU joined a deputation of 300 women to protest the shelving of The Conciliation Bill. Now known as Black Friday, the women were brutally and sexually assaulted. Edith Begbie and Beatrice Martin, not themselves assaulted, witnessed 'ghastly scenes' and retaliated. Throwing stones, smashing 'Winston's Window', each receiving 2 weeks in Holloway. On their return they were greeted by WSPU at the station. They were given a reception at Dorset Hall the home of Rose Lamartine Yates.

WSPU Brick

BETTER BROKEN WINDOWS THAN BROKEN PROMISES

Lillian Ball 1st March 1912

- 5 Wimbledon Theatre. As the WSPU branch grew larger indoor halls were booked for meetings with guest speakers. In 'How I became a Suffragist' Rose Lamartine Yates says she attended a public meeting on 22nd February 1909, where Christabel Pankhurst was chief speaker. Feeling a 'definite call' she asked her husband Tom if he could give her a birthday gift of 'a month in Holloway for the cause'. Two days later she attended a deputation to the House of Commons to present a petition to the Prime Minister. Seized by police and charged with obstruction, Rose, who studied law at Oxford, used the courtroom to legitimise her actions, 'urging magistrates to refrain from enforcing unfair laws'. Rose argued that it was her constitutional right to take part in this deputation and that it was the police that obstructed the Suffragettes from entering the House of Commons and not the other way around. Militancy was not a directive from WSPU, however Wimbledon women embarked upon militancy as a direct and reasoned response to their own and others repressive treatment.

WSPU Brick

CONSTITUTIONAL METHODS BEING IGNORED, DRIVE US
TO WINDOW SMASHING

- 6 Dorset Hall, Kingston Road. Home to Rose Lamartine Yates, the grounds were used for suffrage meetings and fundraising events. A number of Suffragettes released from jail following Hunger Strikes recuperated at Dorset Hall. The friendships and networks, some formed in prison were central to sustaining the organisation at local and national levels, and support for recuperating

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Suffragettes. Dorset Hall largely remained a refuge for Rose's friends, however, other respite WSPU nursing homes were established for Hunger-Strike prisoners who had been force feed, then released under the 'Cat and Mouse Act' 1913. This act temporarily discharged prisoners on grounds of ill-health, only for them to be returned to prison to complete their sentence when they had regained strength.

Visiting guest speakers often stayed here and it has been suggested that Christabel Pankhurst hid here from the police after a warrant for her arrest was issued.

WSPU Brick IF CONSTITUTIONAL DEPUTATION IS REFUTED WE MUST
PRESENT A STONE MESSAGE

Source material:

Wimbledon Museum and Young Masters Her Court research notes

Museum of London - Newspaper cuttings and At Home Flyer

National Library of Scotland - Ordnance Survey maps 1910

Royal Holloway University - Doctoral Thesis

'Rose Lamartine-Yates and the Wimbledon WSPU: Reconfiguring Suffragette History from the local to the National' Alexandra Hughes-Johnson 2017

Making notes: The cylinders were made in soft porcelain and then held in cupped hands and my inhae and exhale breath shaped each one.

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