

THE WOMEN'S KIT **Box 4- complete**

Created by Pamela Harris, OISE, 1972.

Completed by Pamela Harris, Becky Kane, Donna Pothaar and many others, 1973.

Republished by OISE, 1974. Distributed by Becky Kane, Margot Smith and others.

CONTENTS:

POSTCARDS

- *Women and Dog* by Marisol
- *The Family* by Marisol
- *Forest, B.C.* by Emily Carr
- *Zunoqua of the Cat Village* by Emily Carr
- *Black Venus* by Niki de Saint Phalle
- *Reason Over Passion* by Joyce Wieland
- *Confedspread* by Joyce Wieland
- *Flood* by Helen Frankenthaler

POSTERS AND LARGE REPRODUCTIONS

- The Cat and Mouse Act, Suffragette poster – WSPU
- “Sexist” – a photo-series by Pamela Harris (only one left)
- Agnes Macphail
- Print of a painting by Emily Carr
- Birth Control Poster
- Misogyny (Dictionary reprint)
- Canadian Women's Firsts – with drawings by Claire Watson
- *Six Canadian Women* – photos and text by Pamela Harris
- *Non-Sexist Children's Stories* – a poster from The Women's Press

FILMSTRIPS

- *Our Mothers' Mothers* – photos from the National Archives
- *Canadian Women* – photos by Pamela Harris
- *Photographs by Women about Women*, from an exhibition organized by the Women's Photo Co-op (*June Greenberg, Pamela Harris, Judith Holman, Laura Jones, Lynn Murray, Liz Maunsell, Linda Rosenbaum, Lisa Steele*). Published by Coach House Press as *Image Nation 11*.

SLIDES

- 50 slides of work by Canadian women artists, in a separate envelope, unmounted, with slide holders, labels and articles re women and art.

RECORDS

- *Black cover* (Cover by Claire Watson)
 - Family Court / Training School – Experiences of a 16-year-old girl.
(Recorded and edited by Pamela Harris)
See also Court Transcript

- *Brown cover* (Cover by Pamela Harris)
 - An Inuit woman talks about her life
(Recorded and edited by Pamela Harris)
 - Nell Hall: Suffragette. Reminiscences of an English militant
(Recorded and edited by Pamela Harris)
- *Blue cover*
 - 5 Artists in Conversation: Bonnie Kreps, Joyce Wieland, Kay Armatage, Katja Jacobs, Vera Frenkel. Recorded at OCA.
(Edited by Pamela Harris; Cover by Claire Watson)
 - A Union Maid: Madeleine Parent on women in unions
(Recorded by Judith Lawrence, edited by Becky Kane)
- *Red cover* (From Original Kit)
 - Rock Revisited. (Cover by Claire Watson)
(Lyrics selected by Karen Englander, read by Richard Dudley.)
 - They Are Playing a Game, readings from Gertrude Stein and R.D. Laing
(Selected and read by Becky Kane)
- *Red cover* (From Republished Version)
 - “Bread and Roses” and other songs. (Sung by Becky Kane and others)
 - They Are Playing a Game, readings from Gertrude Stein and R.D. Laing
(Recorded and Edited by Becky Kane)

REPRODUCTIONS OF HISTORIC NEWSPAPERS AND RELATED MATERIALS

- *They Went to Prison* – names of British suffragette prisoners from 1905–1914
- *Letter sent from Holloway Prison* – Nell Hall to her father
- *Suffragette* – a personal experience, by Nell Hall (from *Raft*)
- *The Suffragette*, May 2, 1913, historic “Raided” issue
- *The Suffragette*, July 3, 1914
- *A Suffragette’s Story*, by Grace Roe
- *The Toronto Daily Star*, November 2, 1906: “Toronto suffrage meeting”
- *The Toronto Daily Star*, October 18, 1929: “Women declared persons”
- *Votes for Women*, a postcard
- 3 suffrage cards
- *Women’s Suffrage in Canada* – a tract by the Toronto Suffrage Association
- *Wahlstimme* – statistics on women’s enfranchisement throughout the world

BOOKLETS AND PAMPHLETS

Original material created for The Women’s Kit:

- Translation cards (8) – news items translated, by Pamela Harris
- *Dracula and Sleeping Beauty* – a contrast card, by Pamela Harris
- Dr. James Barry, a postcard
- *The Fashion Trap*, a Möbius strip, by Pamela Harris
- *Untitled*, author’s name withheld – the story of a teenage pregnancy,
cover photograph by Pamela Harris
- *Inaloosiak and the Grizzly Bear*, told by Melanie Anatiak,
translated and illustrated by Theresa Quaajuak
- *We Are Women* – on the women’s movement, by Angela Rose

- *Wages for Housework*, by Marie Welton, illustrations by Claire Watson
- *Teen Tales*– comic strip inversions, by Bev Allinson & Linda Fischer, illustrations by Claire Watson
- *Paradigm*–a medieval nun confronts misogyny, by Pamela Harris
- *Sex role reversals in marriage* – psychological advice reversed
- *Our Names*, by Pamela Harris
- *A Visit to a Junior High Women’s Group*, by Marie Welton
- *Family*, compiled by Donna James
- *The Great Goddess*, by Pamela Harris
- *Witches*, by Becky Kane
- *Our Clothing Our Prisons*, by Maggie Fehlberg and Wendy Greene
- *Fear of Women*, by Pamela Harris
- *You Are What You Play* by Karen Kuzmochka
- *Rites of Passage*–on menarche, by Pamela Harris
- *Mind Warp*–translating advertising, by Angela Rose
- *Our Psychic Spaces* – on women and psychiatry, by Maggie Fehlberg
- *Movement Strategy* – Canadian suffrage movement tactics, by Becky Kane
- *Improvisation* – theatre games on family roles, by Tony Miles
- *Rock Revisited*– looking at rock lyrics, by Pamela Harris. (Replaced recorded reading of rock lyrics for re-published kit.) Drawing by Claire Watson.
- Biographies of Emily Carr, Dr. Emily Stowe, Cora Hind, Agnes Macphail, by Becky Kane
- *Women of Canada* – identification list for filmstrip *Our Mothers’ Mothers*
- *Scrap Book* – a collection of quotes and images
- *On Being a Prom Queen*, by Sandra Stienecker. (Drawing by Claire Watson)
- *Tying the Knot* – marriage laws: property vs body rights, by Pamela Harris
- *Juvenile*, Canadian juvenile law and what it means
- *Could Be a True Story* – fashion, harassment and guilt, by Pamela Harris
- *Misogynist*, quotes by famous men denigrating women through the ages, selected by Pamela Harris
- *Other Contributors* – bibliography of biographies of women, by Katie Seward
- “*For Women Have Sat Indoors*” folder of illustrations by Claire Watson
- *My Father’s House*, poetry by Barbara Dryzen, drawings by Claire Watson
- *Judging the Past* and *Stepping into the Future*. “Fortune-tellers” re kid’s lit

Material reprinted from other sources:

- *Manifesto of Quebec Women* – Extracts, with translation by Eithne Bourget
- *Birth Control that Works* – a brochure from Family Planning
- *You’re a What?* – Women’s Bureau brochure on non-traditional careers
- *The Imaginary Portrait*, the work of Hertha Muysson.
- *A Day of Care* – a cartoon book by Roger Baker from *The Day Care Book*
- *Aphra* – a feminist literary magazine
- “*Notes for a Case History*” – from *A Man and Two Women* by Doris Lessing, cover photo by Pamela Harris
- *Daddy* – poems by Sylvia Plath and Diane Wakoski
- An Arctic birth, from *Never in Anger* by Jean Briggs

- “Shakespeare’s Sister,” from *A Room of One’s Own* by Virginia Woolf, cover by Claire Watson.
- *The Politics of Housework*, by Pat Mainardi
- *Lost Women: A Doctor’s Diary, 1904–1932* by Mabel S. Ulrich, M.D.
- *In Times Like These* (excerpts), by Nellie McClung
- *Women and Film: 1896-1973*, festival catalogue of films by women
- *Why Women Fear Success*, by Vivian Gornick
- *A Marriage Agreement*, by Alix Shulman
- *The Double Standard of Aging*, by Susan Sontag
- *A Play about Bread and Roses*, by Frieda Foreman and Margôt Smith
- *The Arts of Life* – excerpts from Robert Briffault’s *The Mothers*
- *The Independent Female* – a play by Joan Holden (S.F. Mime Troupe)
- *For Boys Only – Diary of an Intrusion into Male Territory*, by Leah Heyn
- *The Rising of the Women*, by Ronnie Lichtman
- *The Building of the Gilded Cage*, by Jo Freeman
- *Canadian Women Elected to Parliament 1921–1972* and *The Other 17 Women* (two sides of same sheet)
- *Insiders’ Tips on How to Get Women Elected* by Barbara Frum, and *Suffragettes Who Have Never Been Kissed* (two sides of same sheet)
- *China envelope* – materials about women in communist China
- *Years of Struggle envelope* – materials about working women
- *Speaking Out on Prostitution*, by Susan Brownmiller
- *Male Chauvinism Permeates Medicine*, from *The Varsity*

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P.S.

Missing:

Poster – “Sexist” (Missing from all but one kit; will try to find original matted version.)

Poster – The Hole

Invitation to an unveiling of a bust of Dr. Emily Stowe

FYI:

Image Nation 11: I believe this was included in the 200 original kits. See Filmstrips.

Notes on names:

Donna James – Donna Pothaar

Claire Watson or Watson-Garcia – Claire Watson Garcia

Angela Rose – Angela Miles

Nell Hall – Nell Hall-Humpherson

Additions:

For historical perspective: (Added to Kits for FAC and OCADU)

–From *The Perception Bag*, OISE, 1970: three pieces compiled by Pamela Harris:

Large Orange Book – Compilation of ads, cartoons and quotes from novels, with female storyline on top half of each page, male storyline on the bottom half.

Green collage poster – “Freedom Now” – ads and quotes re women and ‘freedom’

Yellow collage poster – “We want your body” – ads re women and hygiene

A Rough History of The Women's Kit

Anthony Barton and David Stansfield originated the unstructured multimedia kit at OISE in 1968 with *The Thirties Kit --Ten Years in a Box*. Pamela Harris joined them during the distribution phase. They worked in the department of computer applications but didn't use computers at all or work on such applications.

The Perception Bag was created in 1970 by what OISE was then referring to as "The Media Group"—Anthony Barton, David Stansfield, Pamela Harris, Robyn Collier, Shirley Wiitasaalo and others. The Perception Bag collected some bad press (as did The Women's Kit which was actually attacked in an editorial in the *Globe and Mail*).

The Eco Box followed, co-sponsored by a UN organization. These three kits (each one larger than the previous; the Eco Box was mammoth) were totally unstructured and usually did not indicate where materials had come from or what the images represented, etc. The idea was immersion, exploration, discovery, creativity, all in sync with the free-school movement of the time. (See: *This Magazine is About Schools*, John Holt's *How Children Fail*, *How Children Learn*, *Summerhill*, *The Whole Earth Catalogue*, Jonathen Kozol, James Herndon, etc.) The kits were given to schools as part of a process of educational experimentation. Almost all print materials were produced in-house at OISE, which then had a large printing facility in the basement.

The Women's Kit, which Pamela Harris created independently, was more structured and definitely had a point of view. The aim was to supply women and girls in high school and colleges with the material they needed to question the status-quo and to see new possibilities in their lives. We supplied information about where materials originated, drew relationships between elements of the kit, acknowledged authors, etc. During distribution, a guide was created to further increase the usefulness of the kit (something that would have been anathema to Stansfield and Barton).

Certain higher-ups at OISE were not greatly enthusiastic about The Women's Kit during its development, and surreptitious moves were made to defund it, both of which failed thanks to the support of women-in-the-know at OISE. Ironically, after its success and re-publication, it became known as the OISE Women's Kit.

200 Women's Kits were produced for testing and given away to schools and colleges in 1973. A year later *The Women's Kit* was republished by OISE.

As the republished Women's Kit was distributed and used, Becky Kane and Margot Smith created an information centre at OISE using the materials collected during the development of the kit and after. Over time this became a seed-germ of The Women's Education Resources Centre, run for decades by Frieda Forman at OISE, and also linking forward to the Women's Educational Resource Collection.

Pamela Harris left OISE in the summer of 1973 after the kit had been printed but before its distribution to continue her project photographing in Spence Bay, NWT (Taloyoak, Nunavut) where she built a community darkroom and taught darkroom skills to Inuit craftswomen. (Her work was later published at *Another Way of Being*. The Inuit women's work was exhibited at the Toronto Dominion Centre and elsewhere.)

