

A Feminist Tea Party: Straddling the 49th
O'Born Contemporary, June 14-16, 2013

Schedule of Events

Caitlin Rueter and Suzanne Stroebe will be in the gallery for the entirety of programme's length and invite guests to join them for tea, sweets, and conversation:

Friday June 14th, 4pm-9pm
Saturday June 15th, 12-6pm
Sunday June 16th 12-5pm

Rueter and Stroebe will be joined by co-hosts at the following times:

Friday June 14th, 7-8pm

Co-hosts: Deirdre Logue and Allyson Mitchell

Topic: "Because I say it is: Tools for Feminist Description"

How does a feminist describe their work and how do we use feminist informed language to describe politicized art? In this hands-on discussion, participants are encouraged to bring an object, an image or a piece of performance documentation in order to be able to think through some of the language and strategies that may be used to discuss work that could be called "feminist."

Saturday June 15th, 2-3pm

Co-host: Kirstin Sabrina Dane

Topic: "Hijabs VS Boobs: Adventures in Muslim FEMENism"

FEMEN's recent "Topless Jihad Day" and the counter-protest organized by groups of Muslim women raised questions about race, women's agency, faith, empowerment and definitions of "freedom" and "liberation" through the (un)veiling of women's bodies.

This informal discussion looks to highlight the various ways Muslim women are portrayed as walking contradictions or stereotypes of oppression -- and how debates over the hijab often overshadow the work being done to champion women's rights by Muslim women and their allies. What do Muslim women want? Can someone practice Islam

and also champion women's rights? How can feminist groups work together, be intersectional, and celebrate difference?

Sunday June 16th, 2-3pm

Co-host: Andil Gosine

Topic: "TEAROOM TRADE (Are gay men failing feminism?)"

About Our Co-Hosts:

Deirdre Logue and Allyson Mitchell are artists and co-founders of FAG Feminist Art Gallery. Operating out of the couple's converted garage in Toronto, FAG's mission is to grow sustainable feminist art, a mandate reinforced by their inaugural exhibition featuring the work of queer artist Elisha Lim. Logue and Mitchell have aligned development and artistic goals in order to operate FAG on its own terms. Their alternative funding system resists the reliance on government or corporate cash, favoring instead a network of feminist community contributors. FAG's micro-funding program DAG has supported a variety of art projects, among them, Les Blues, a group dedicated to increasing the visibility and histories of queer people of colour and Colour Me Dragg. Recent talks (BRAGS) have included a focus on international artist Zanele Muholi and NAG, their angry letter writing campaign, just took the Toronto International Film Festival to task for their racist and misogynist list of "100 essential films of all time". Recent media exhibitions include the presentation of art porn hybrid *Community Action Center* by AL Steiner and AK Burns and a focus on the UK based Cinenova collection as animated by local activists and artists. Logue is currently the Development Director at Vtape and Mitchell works as Assistant Professor in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at York University. Both have prolific international art practices.

www.allysonmitchell.com

www.deirdrelogue.com

www.facebook.com/FeministArtGallery

Kirstin Sabrina Dane is the creator and writer of wood turtle, a world-recognized blog exploring diverse issues within Muslim Feminism. She most notably writes about the hijab and genderized Islamophobia, women's prayer spaces, women's participation in the Mosque, and her experiences raising two baby girls. She works toward dispelling myths and stereotypes about women in Islam for both Muslims and non, and encourages women to produce engaged readings and interpretations of the Quran.

Her work has been featured on Ms. Magazine Blog, BlogHer, iVillage and she writes media analysis for Muslimah Media Watch. For the past two years Kirstin has been nominated for Best Female Writer by the Brass Crescent -- an award to honour the best writers and thinkers of the emerging Muslim blogosphere -- receiving an

honourable mention for her post on Menstruation and Prayer in Islam. Kirstin holds a masters degree in Islamic Studies, lives in the suburbs of Toronto with her small family and often gets her hijab in a bunch trying to negotiate faith, feminism and motherhood.

www.woodturtle.wordpress.com

Andil Gosine's writing, research, and artistic practice explore relationships between ecology, desire and power. Over the last three years he has been working on "WARDROBES," a collection of art-fashion objects and performances that considers how traumatic historical acts shape the most tender parts of our intimate lives. A Liberal Arts Professor at York University, Andil's work has been published in many journals and books, including Art in America, ARC, Queering Online, Queer Ecology, Queerly Canadian, Canadian Woman Studies and Alternatives.

www.andilgosine.com