

A text of the Feministische Handwerk Partij - <https://feministischehandwerkpartij.org/>

A feminist movement in the Netherlands

Here is their Manifest which was read during the Weaving Voices international workshop in Amsterdam

The FHP (short for 'Feministische Handwerk Partij') is a political feminist artist movement that is dedicated to studying, repairing, speaking, patching up, unlearning and mending.

We want to restore the disturbed relationship to our immediate surroundings and a damaged world as a whole. The act of repairing textiles plays an important part in this because it is an exercise in slowing down, embodying and transforming. Through this we are connecting with the underexposed longstanding history of women in which textile production was a daily reality.

During our gatherings we allow needlework and studying to become completely intertwined. By doing so we strive to un-learn the deep-rooted tendency to elicit a hierarchic separation between body and mind (where the mind is prioritized over matter). By speaking in an embodied way both indoors as well as in the public domain (from community centre to boardroom), together with the participants of our gatherings we develop an alternative way of working, making and speaking.

We have become tired of how the highest aspiration is a heroic manifestation in the public domain. Who facilitates this superhero? And who will clean up their mess? The Feminist Needlework Party develops an unspectacular, ongoing counter-narrative in the form of various performative actions and workshops.

Through our activities we mean to realize a higher level of appreciation for care, maintenance and repair. Care is invisible work, often taking place in the domestic sphere and often unpaid for. It is diametrically opposed to concepts of innovation, autonomy, the myth of the independent genius and the epic story of the hero. Care is about dependency, about intimacy, about rituals, about recovery, about managing to keep things going, about living together, being sick together and dying together.