

Women in Front

Commemorating the contribution of Women to the war effort at home and at the front in WW1

**A Public Art Exhibition in the Stearns Mausoleum
Nunhead Cemetery, Linden Grove, SE15 3LP**

Opening times in May 2017:

11am - 5pm, 6th & 7th

11am - 5pm, 13th & 14th

11am - 5pm, 20th & 21st

11am - 5pm, 27th 28th & 29th

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Women In Front - public art exhibition commemorates the contribution of women to the war effort at home and at the front in the First World War. As the war progressed with mounting casualties and the introduction of conscription, over 1 million women were employed for the first time in occupations previously reserved for men. Over 1.6 million women worked in domestic service were now given the opportunity to move into better-paid employment.

In March 1917, the Women's War Work Subcommittee was formed to collect materials covering the contribution of women to the war effort for a National War Museum. The subcommittee commissioned photographers Horace Nicholls, George Parnham Lewis, and Olive Edlis (covering France) to record the work undertaken by women, this culminated in an exhibition at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1918, attracting 82,000 visitors.

100 years later, Women In Front through the artworks on display, tells the stories of women's lives before the war, their war work, and what happened to them afterwards. Nicky Scott-Francis explores the working lives of munionettes, whilst Jill Rock concentrates on their achievements in the Women's Football League, with Jolanta Jagiello covering the employment of female police constables to control their rowdy out-of-work behaviour. Sara Scott focuses on postal workers and Monica Wheeler on bus conductors, one of the few professions still open to women after

the war, improving the working conditions of women. Elizabeta Chojak-Mysko and Louse Kosinska tell the stories of women who had to disguise themselves as men to achieve their ambitions, whether as doctors to run a hospital for wounded soldiers or to take their pastime of flying to turn themselves into combat pilots.

The exhibition funded by Southwark Council Neighbourhood Fund is open all weekends in May in the Stearns Mausoleum (Nunhead Cemetery, Linden Grove, London, SE15 3LP) from 6th May 2017 including FONC May Open Day 20th May and May Bank Monday 29th May 2017, 11am-5pm, www.artgoingplaces.com and www.fonc.org.uk .

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Please see www.artgoingplaces.com .

The Friends of Nunhead Cemetery

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