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## Wise Women Manifesto

We do not want academic women to be perpetually highlighted as victims of persistent and systemic inequities, though these do of course exist. Instead, we wish to celebrate women, their ideas, and achievements, and thereby empower them to claim “rights, access to and control of resources and power to influence matters that concern or affect them” (Winther et al, 2016: 392).

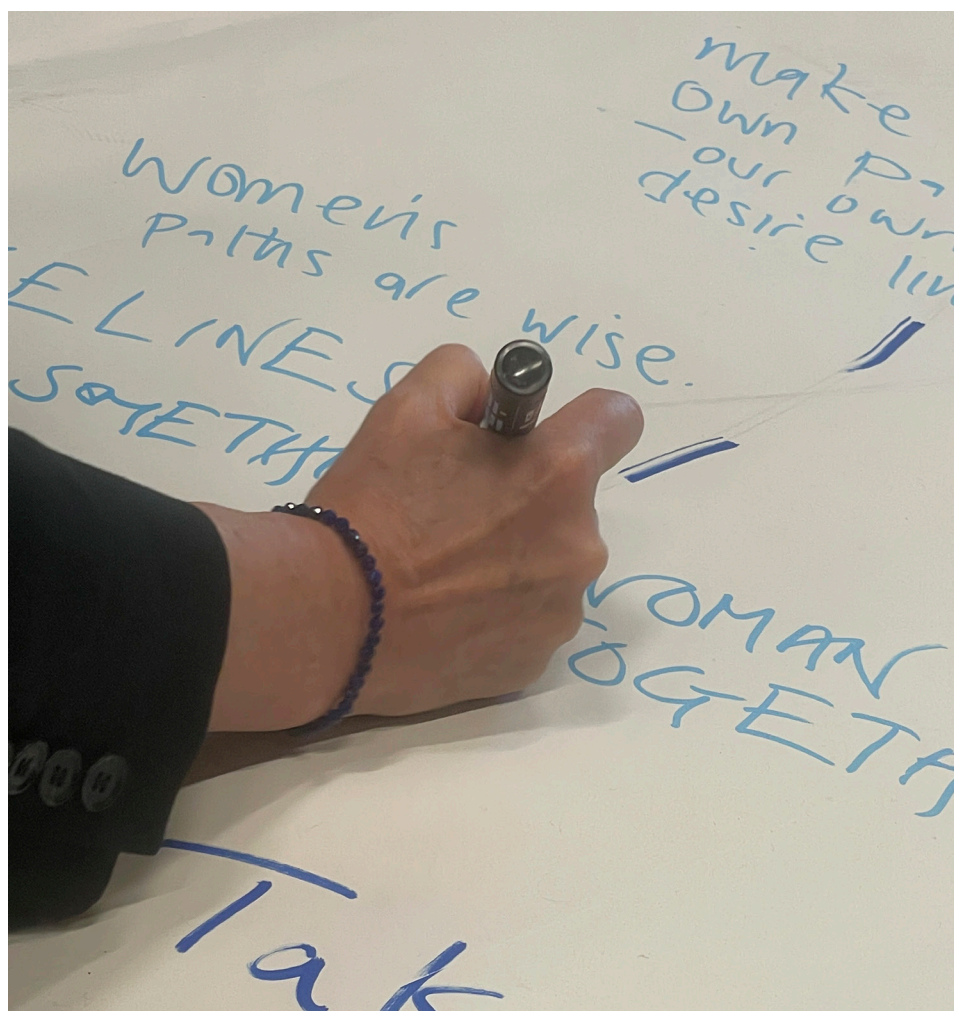
Manifestos have a long history in art and design, acting as declarations of shared intentions, values and aspirations. The eleven manifesto points that are situated at the centre of this publication signify an important step in developing shared understandings, solidarity and a thriving network of women academics in the Leeds School of Arts (LSA).

With the support of funding received from Research England and the Leeds Beckett Equity and Inclusion Research Fund, Dr Gillian Dyson and Dr Anne Schiffer brought women across the Leeds School of Arts together in a day long symposium.

Dr Joanna Leah facilitated the performative co-creation of a ‘floor manifesto’ which is documented here and which forms the basis for articulating a collective statement.

The portraits contained in this manifesto were taken by photographer, artist and academic Lizzie Coombes. Having one’s portrait taken is a conscious act of claiming space and a form of empowerment. These portraits demonstrate the collective voice of the undersigned women.





"It was a refreshingly open and empowering sharing experience and conversation, recognising we are not alone. The format broke down many barriers which are usually placed by individuals in academia."



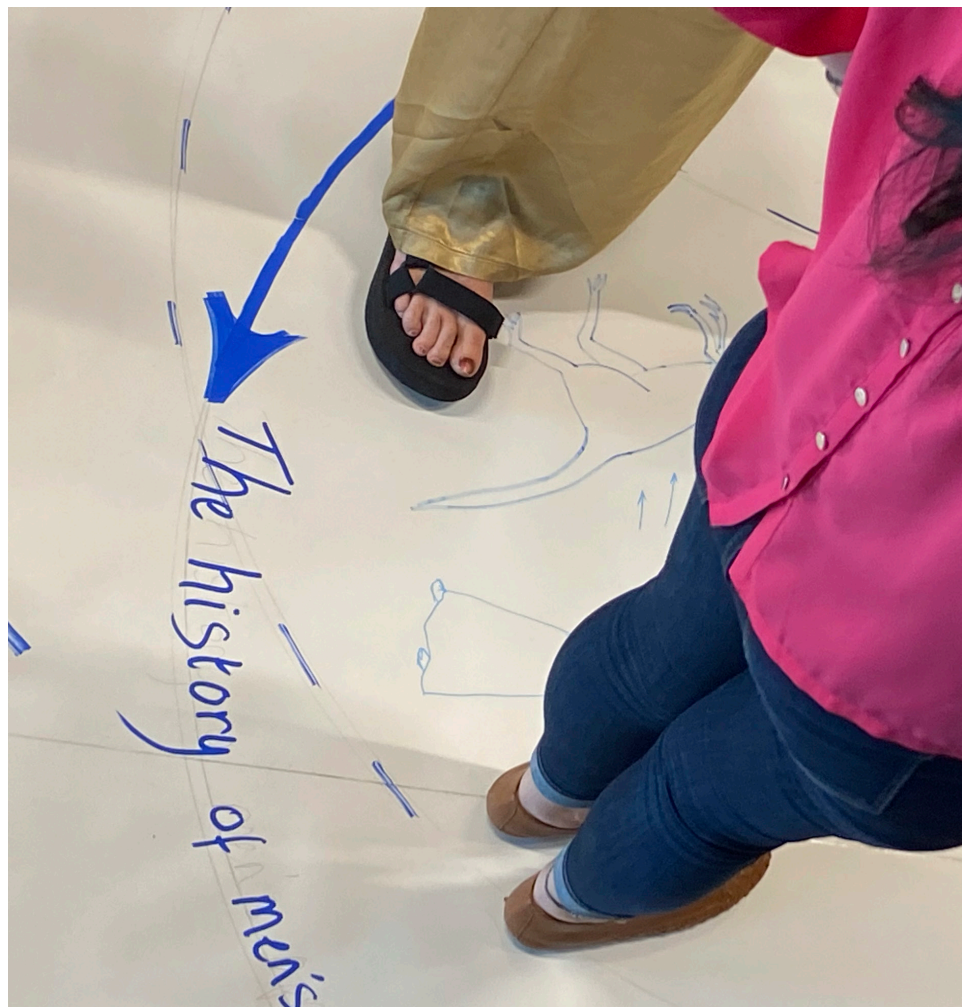






"Thank you for sharing your menopause story [...]. It really moved me."

"I've been struggling since returning from my second maternity leave due to staff changes [...] and being introduced to this network of amazing women at the LSA is a light at the end of the tunnel."











“plac[ing] the value of artistic practice at the centre [...] is really important and made the day feel embodied and visual and not like some of the dry or corporate stuff that is increasingly around us all the time.”







- We will shed the toxic masculinity.
- We demand accountability, co-creation and equity.
- We will moult 'academic housework' and stereotyped responsibilities.
- We recognise being vulnerable gives us power to regenerate.
- We will sit, gather and reflect.
- You push us down, we will push back!
- We will occupy spaces of leadership and influence. We are against tokenism.
- We will force the dinosaurs out!
- We will take brave steps, stepping side by side.
- We will enjoy our stride, walking wide, for women's paths are wise.





New  
 malleability  
 to know what to  
 push against  
 opposition

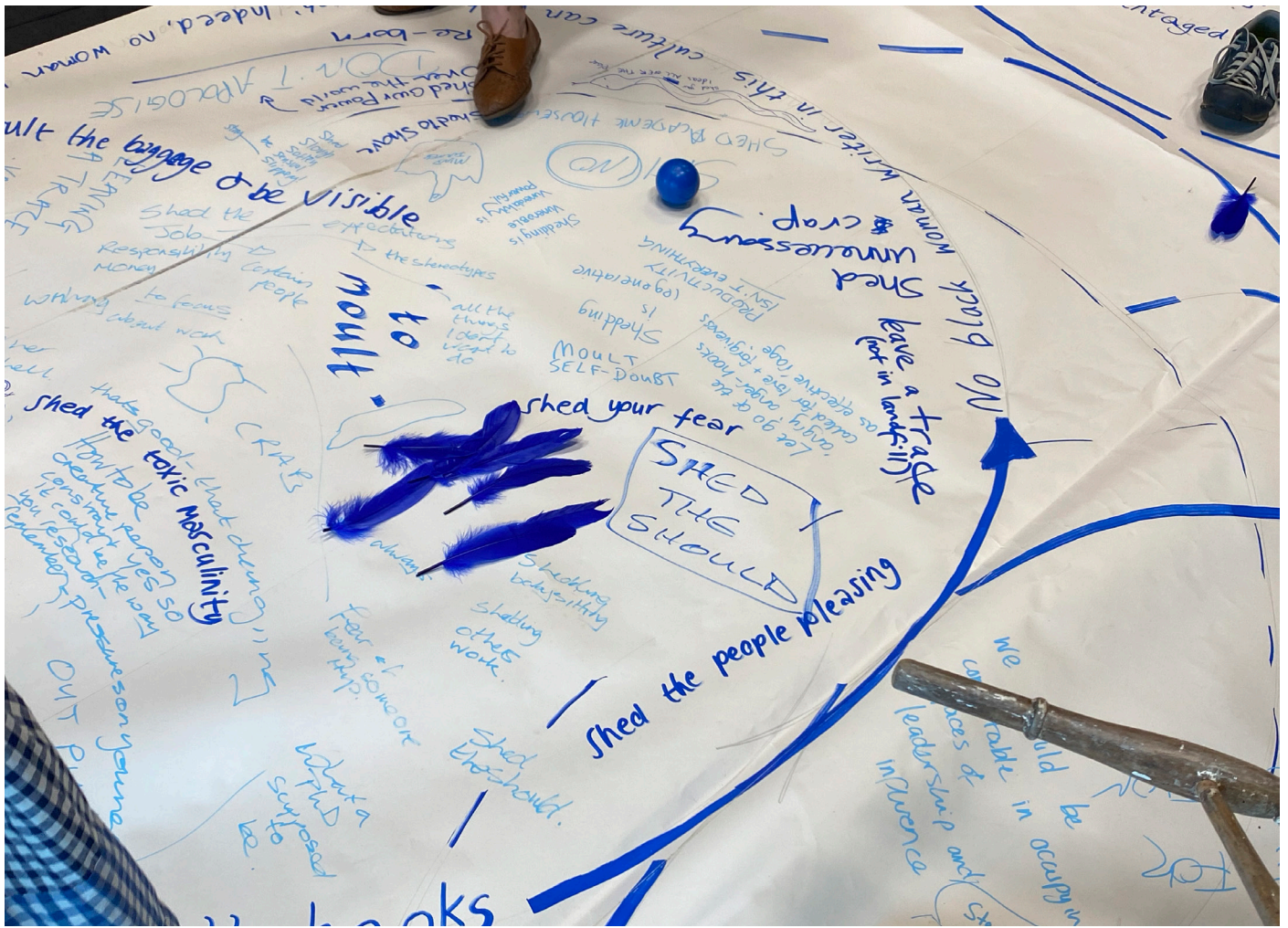


"I think we'd all like to get to know one another better and have more conversations so we can build collaborations together and/or just have more like minded colleagues, particularly as the last couple of years have been so isolating and because women issues are isolating!"









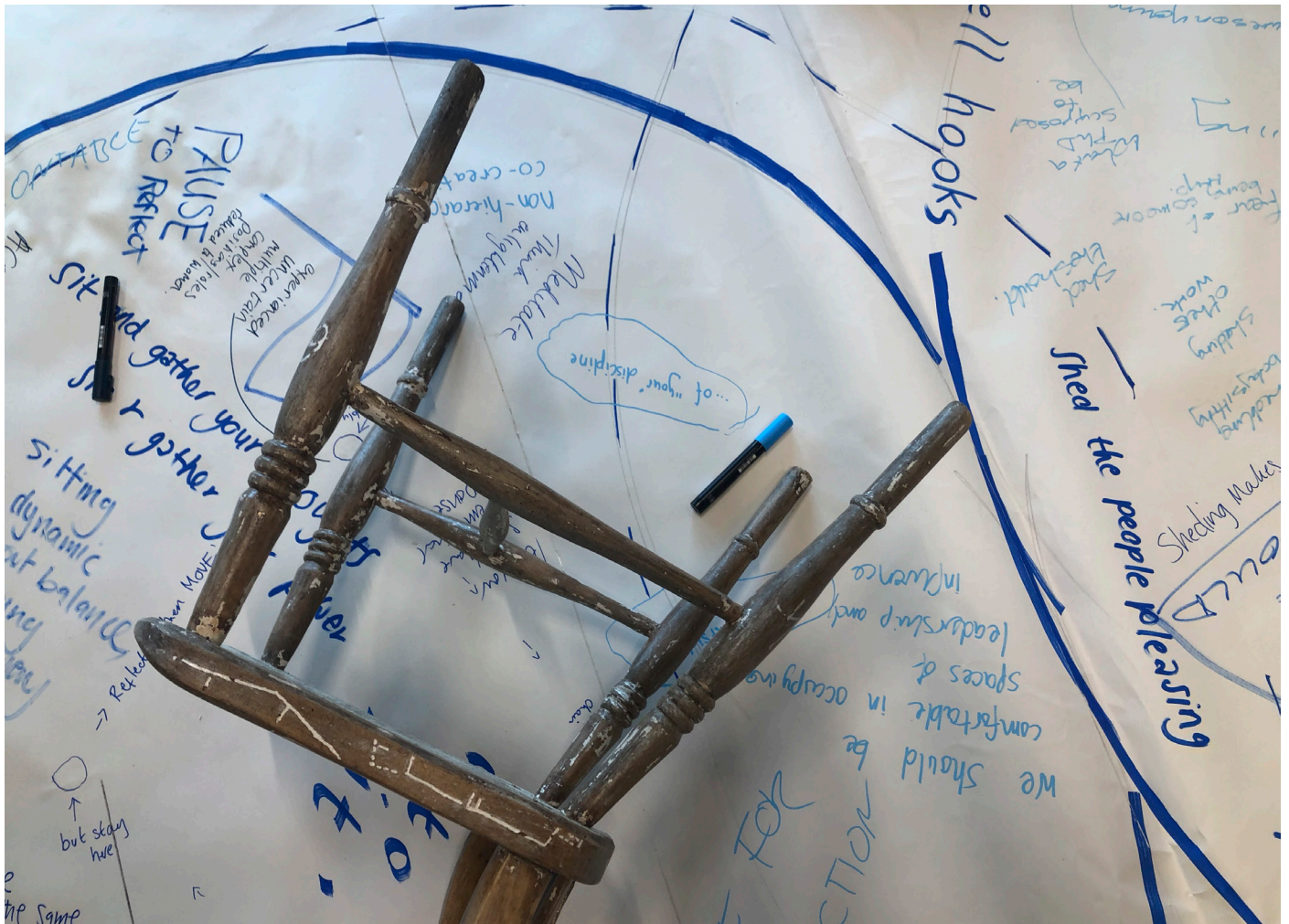
"I think there's a desire for a supportive network and it being more regular. Love to be part of thinking how this might happen. It's also really important especially in our subject area currently with some of the challenges people are facing especially around time for research."



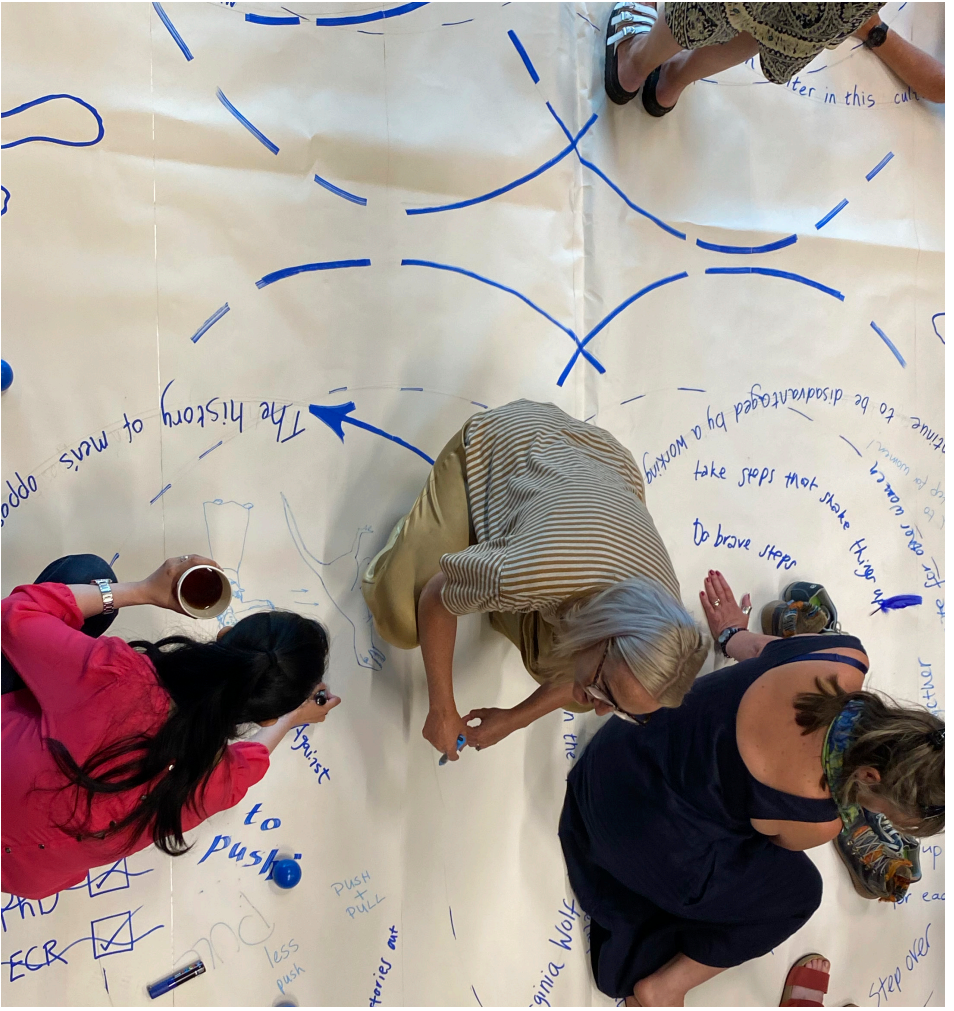








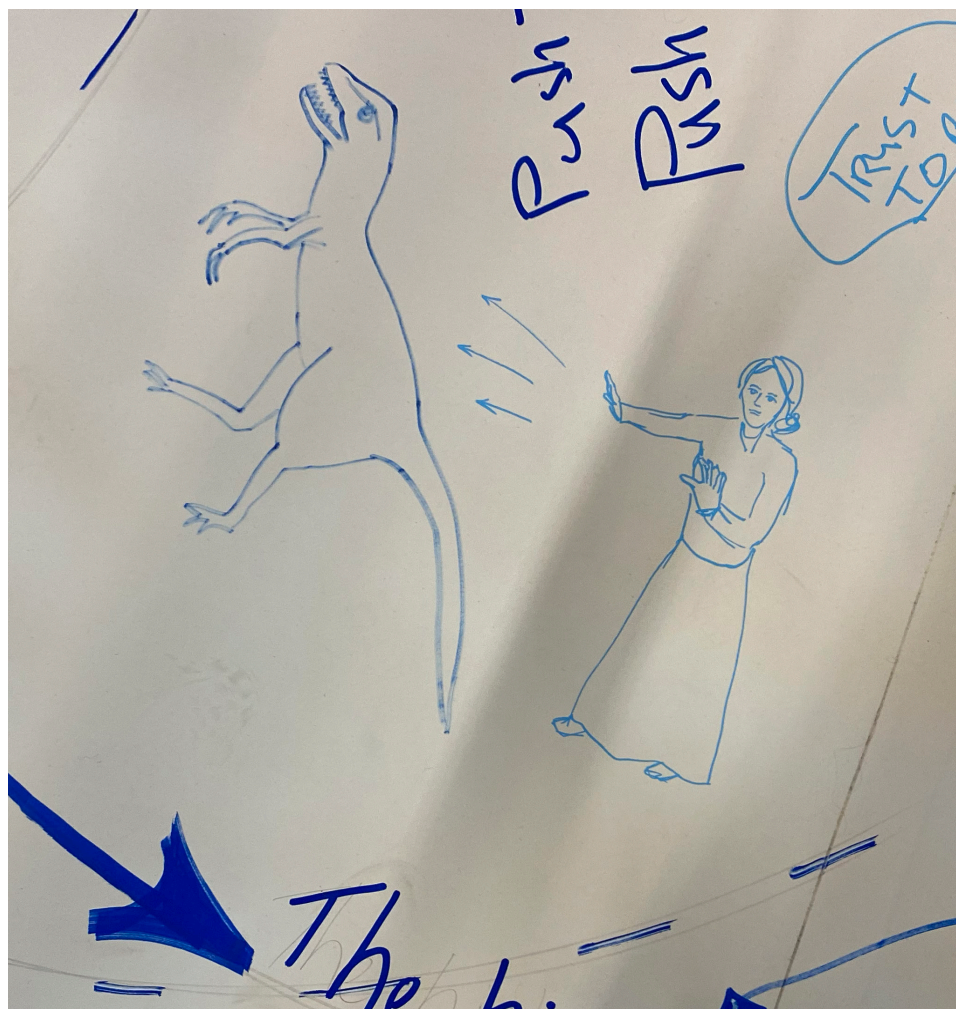
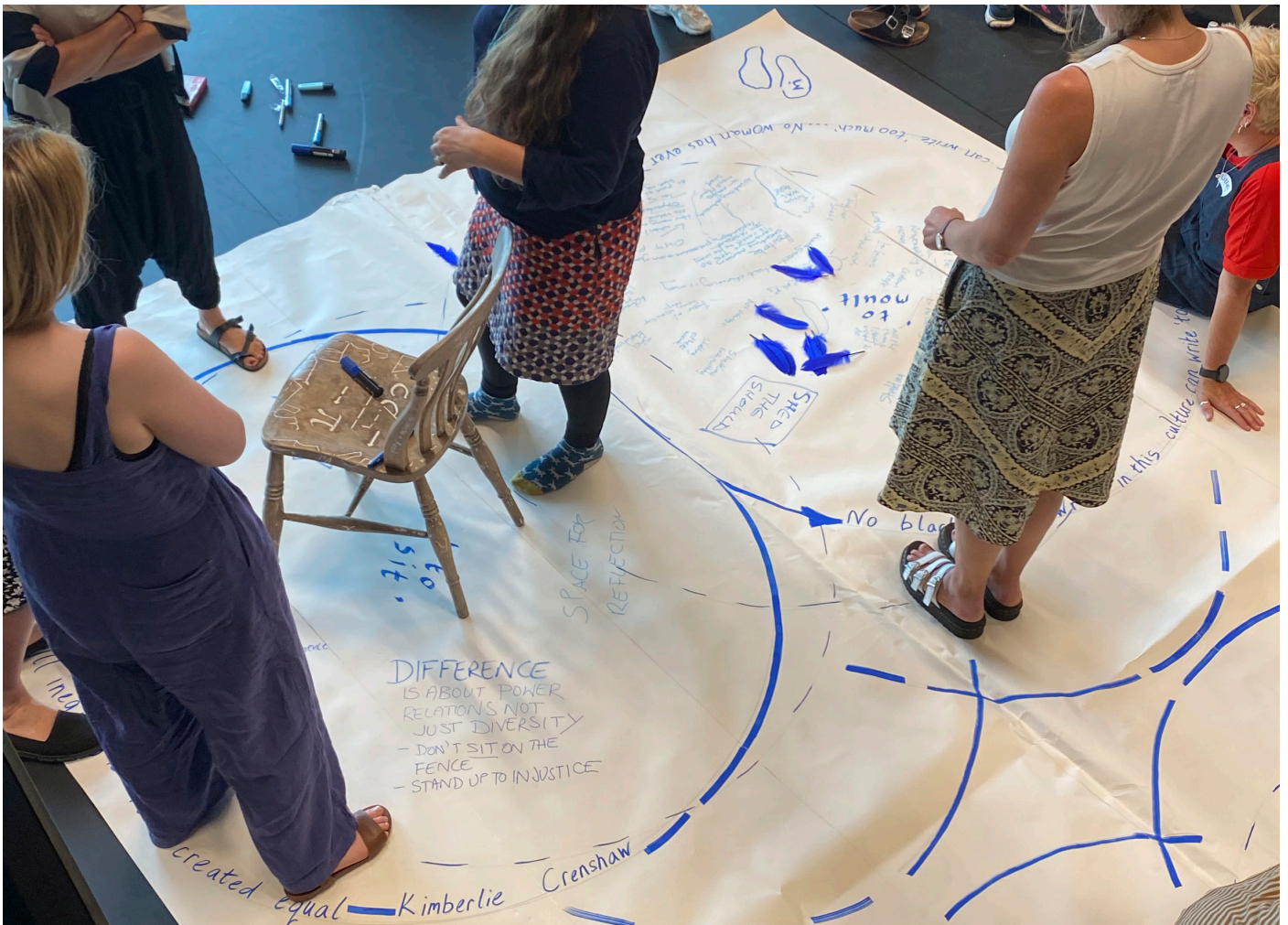
"It felt like this was the beginning of a genuinely supportive and feminist space which is much needed. It was inspiring and informative to hear about people's research and personal/professional journeys - so often these get conveyed or framed less authentically in corporate/patriarchal spaces or, are just misconstrued."











"It made me feel a bit comforted to know there was a community facing some of the same issues as myself. Looking forward to the next one!"

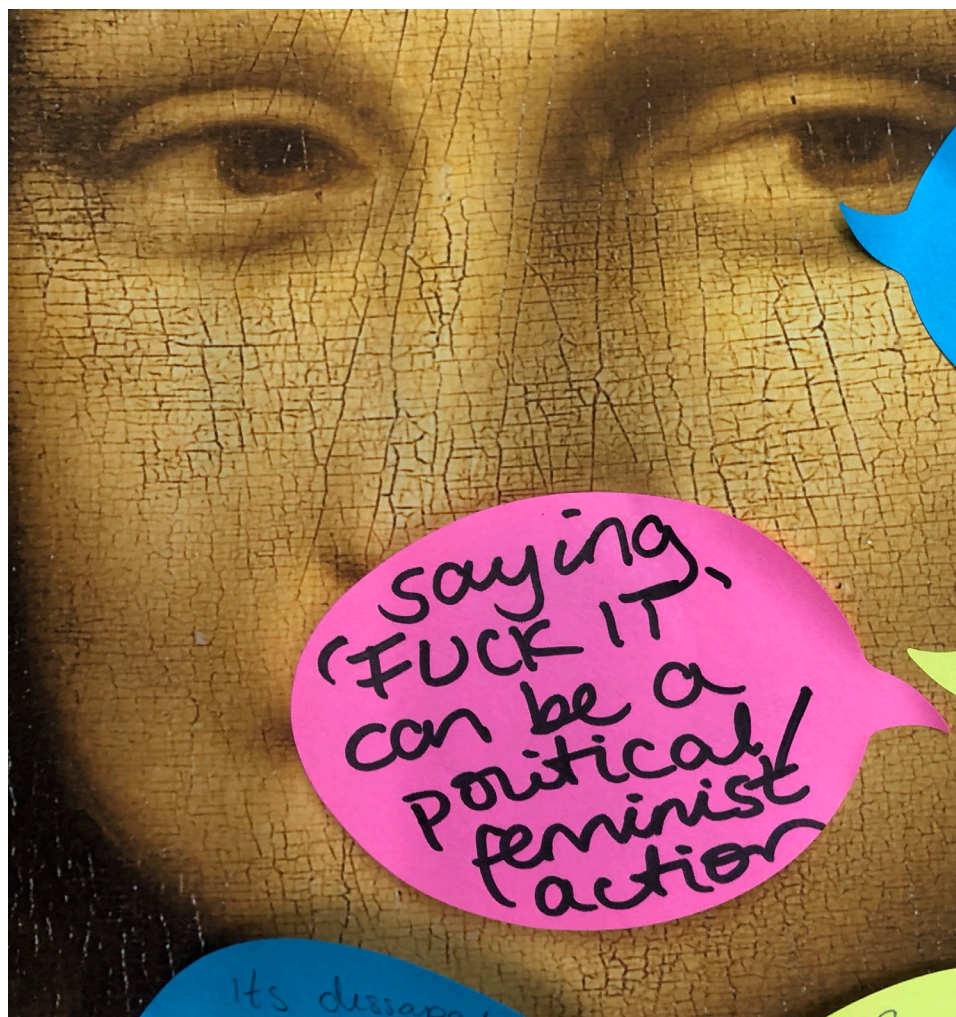








“Whilst we wanted to create an overall positive feel, we also recognised that we needed a space for women to share difficult experiences. The ‘Moaning Lisa’ invited participants to ‘get it off your chest’ by adding ‘your moans, your groans, your complaints, your unanswered questions, your why don’t they just..., your heartfelt cries or silent laments!’”







HOT WATER  
FISHES TO  
MT STUDENTS

SAYING  
CAN BE  
POLITICAL  
OFFER  
STUCK IN

Feeds  
UNABLE TO  
NO  
BECAUSE

because NO  
FEEDS

because NO  
FEEDS

because NO  
FEEDS



We the undersigned are women in the Leeds School of Arts and our allies\* who came together on the 20th of July 2022:

Teresa Brayshaw  
Beth Cassani  
Jennifer Chalkley  
Dr Anja Connor-Crabb  
Lizzie Coombes  
Dr Gillian Dyson  
Dr Bronwen Edwards\*  
Trudi Entwistle  
Dr Alia Fadel  
Dr Jill Gibbon\*  
Dr Laura Griffiths  
Dr Jo Hassall  
Dr Mary Ikoniadou  
Dr Philippa Jackson  
Dr Julia Kelly  
Lisa Kendal  
Dr Rachel Krische  
Dr Joanna Leah  
Dr Tenley Martin  
Professor Sue Miller  
Lauren Moriarty  
Professor Jayne Raisborough\*  
Marielle Reuser  
Gabrielle Russell  
Professor Lisa Stansbie\*  
Dr Liz Stirling  
Dr Anne Schiffer  
Harriet Wadsworth  
Dr Beccy Watson\*  
Zara Worth



# Wise Women Manifesto

Authors: Joanna Leah, Lizzie Coombes, Anne Schiffer, Gillian Dyson

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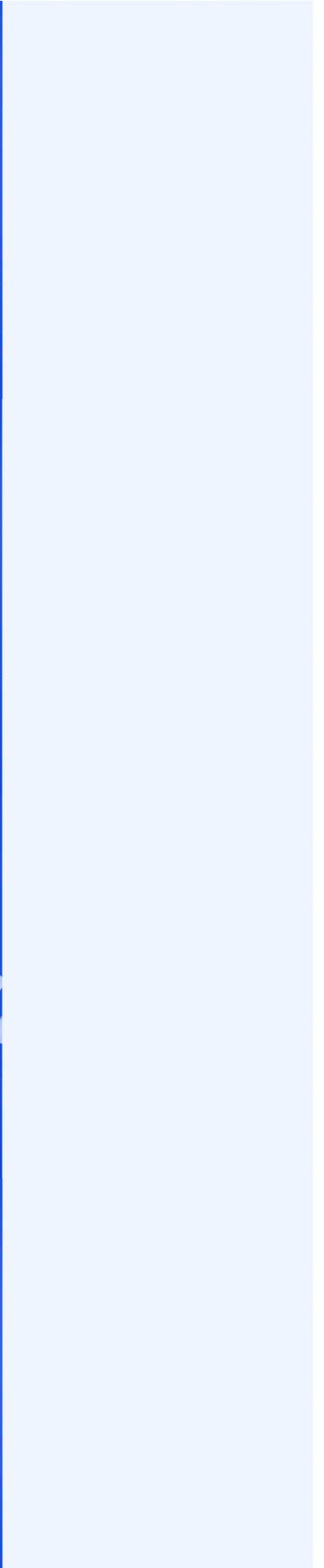
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LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY  
LEEDS SCHOOL OF ARTS







Shed your fear  
 Shed  
 Unnecessary  
 man  
 crap.

Let go of the  
 angry, anger-hooks  
 called for love + forgiveness  
 as effective rage.

Shedding is  
 generative  
 (eg  
 PRODUCTIVITY  
 ISN'T EVERYTHING

Shedding is  
 Unreleasable  
 Powerfully is

all the things  
 I don't want to  
 do

MOLT  
 SELF-DOUBT

Shedding is  
 generative

Shed  
 Unnecessary  
 man  
 crap.

