

# *Virginia Woolf and Feminism*



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# Virginia Woolf

## (1882-1941)

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- 1882: Born in Kensington, London
- Parents: Leslie and Julia Stephen
- 1895: Julia Stephen's death. First mental breakdown
- 1904: Leslie Stephen's death. The family move to Bloosbury
- Begins her early career as an essayist and reviewer for *The Guardian* and *Times Literary Supplement*
- 1913: Marries Leonard Woolf
- 1917: The Woolfs set up The Hogarth Press

# *The Bloomsbury Group*

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- Group of British intellectuals, writers, philosophers and painters (TS Eliot, EM Forster, George Maynard Keynes, Bertrand Russell, Roger Fry ...)
- The 'Dreadnought Hoax' (1910)



The Emperor of Abyssinia and his court



# *The First Post-Impressionist Exhibition (1910)*

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- Grafton Galleries, London
- Paul Cézanne, Vincent Van Gogh, Paul Gauguin, Georges Seurat, Henri Rousseau ....



Henri Rousseau, 'The Dream'



Paul Cézanne, 'The Card Players'



Vincent Van Gohn, 'The Large Plane Tress'

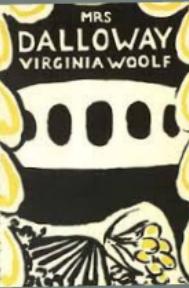


Paul Gauguin, 'Woman Holding a Fruit'

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# *The Hogarth Press (1917)*



Hogarth House, Richmond (Surrey)

**AUTHORS**

Leonard had an emotional attitude towards the Press; as if it were the child their marriage had never produced.

Hogarth Press published some of the eras most prominent, forward, and groundbreaking thinkers of the era.



- \* Forster, E. M.
- \* Smith, Logan Pearsall
- \* Woolf, Virginia
- \* Dostoevsky, F. M.
- \* Eliot, T.S.
- \* Sackville-West, Vita
- \* Stein, Gertrude
- \* Freud, Sigmund
- \* Woolf, Leonard

A Room of One's Own (1928)

q room of one's own

Women's Suffrage in England (1918)

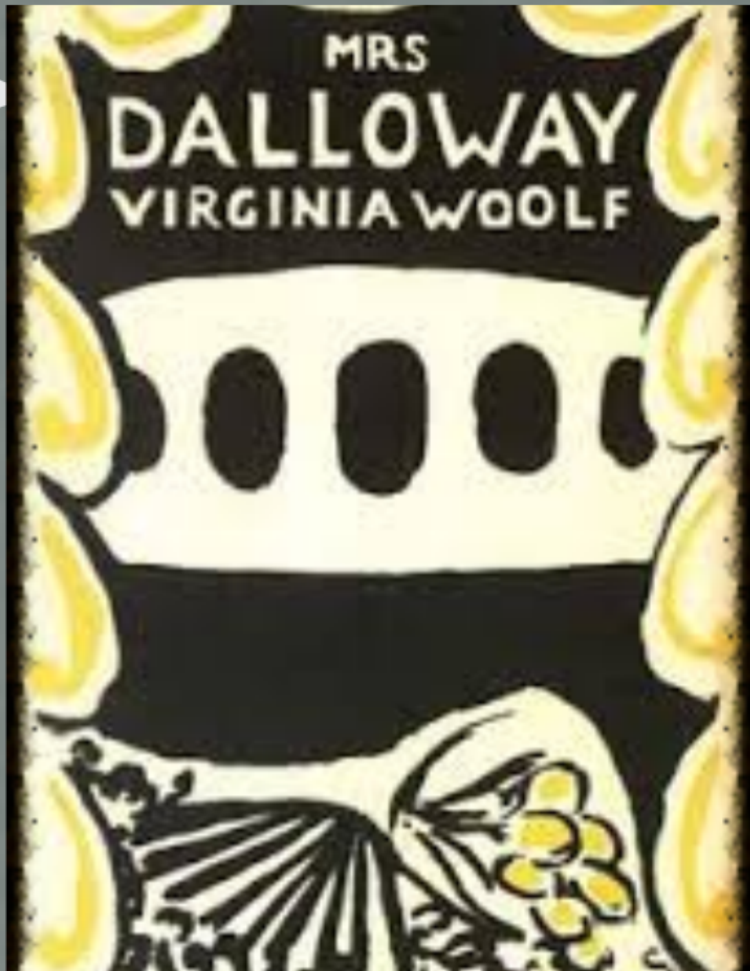
- Biological/ intellectual inferiority of women
- Absence of women artists, cultural and literary
- CRYING: "But, you may say, we are not artists and fiction - what has that to do with it?"
- "A woman must have MONEY and a room of her own if she is to write fiction"

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Suicide: R



# The Works



- *Monday or Tuesday* (1921)
- *Jacob's Room* (1922)
- *Mrs Dalloway* (1925)
- *To the Lighthouse* (1927)
- *Orlando* (1928)
- *A Room of One's Own* (1929)
- *The Waves* (1931)
- *The Years* (1937)
- *Three Guineas* (1938)
- *Between the Acts* (1941)

# Suicide: Rodmell, Sussex (1941)

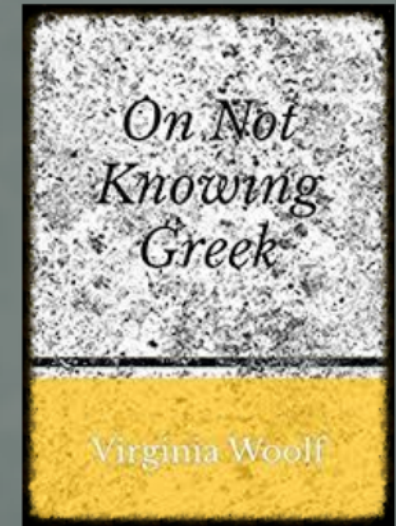
*The Hours*, Stephen Daldry (2002)



# *A Room of One's Own* (1929)



Women's Suffrage in England  
(1918)



- Biological/intellectual inferiority of women
- Absence of women artists: cultural and economic impediment
- OPENING: "But, you may say, we asked you to speak about women and fiction - what, has that to do with a room of one's own?"
- "A woman must have **MONEY** and a room of one's own if she is to write fiction"

# 'Oxbridge'



- Visit: a series of impediments
- Exclusion of women from knowledge and public institutions
- Shakespeare's twin sister: Judith Shakespeare



# The British Library



- Absence of women writers: 'For we think back though our mothers if we are women'
- Sisterhood of women: 'Chloe liked Olivia the first time in history'

# Conclusion

"I told you in the course of this paper that Shakespeare had a sister [...] She died young - alas, she never wrote a word [...] Now my belief is that this poet who never wrote a word and was buried at the cross-roads still lives. She lives in you and me, and in many other women who are not here to-night, for they are washing up the dishes and putting the children to bed [...] Drawing her life from the lives of the unknown who were her forerunners [...] she will be born. I maintain that she would come if we worked for her, and that so to work, even in poverty and obscurity, is worth while."



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