



Katie Armstrong-Lestrangle



Pink Hat © Canadian Museum of History

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Knitted by Katie Armstrong-Lestrangle
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Katie Armstrong-Lestrangle knitted this hat. Born and raised in Southern California, Katie moved to Newfoundland in the summer of 2007, and spent her first Newfoundland winter teaching herself to knit. This began a neverending passion for every aspect of knitting and its traditions, especially those relating to Newfoundland and Labrador.

While watching the American election in 2016, Katie found herself becoming enraged by sexist comments made by then-candidate Donald Trump. Approached about knitting pink “Pussy Hats” to send to family and friends, channelling her feelings into knitting, she knit an astonishing 50 Pussy Hats in 2016.

More than headwear, to Katie these hats represent autonomy – the ability to say “no” without fear. Pussy Hats give Katie hope that her daughter will not repeat the toxic cycle of girls and women doing what they are told, staying silent, or doing things “because that’s how they’re done.” The pink hat is worn as a symbol of reclamation or a “knitted rebellion,” a movement that Katie wholeheartedly supports.

Katie currently works as a quality-control supervisor for a non-profit organization focused on creating handcrafted knitwear. This role has given her an understanding of the importance of preserving traditions and bringing them into the modern era.

Katie spends much of her spare time knitting, talking about knitting, and reading pattern books.