







JITSKE SCHOLS

The Matilda's I t/m IV, 2024 FOOTEPRINT

ink wash on paper (vintage Hahnemuhle ingres, 100 gr) 24 x 31 cm

€550,= per piece

Location: artist studio, Amsterdam

DESCRIPTION/NOTES

The Matilda Effect refers to the systematic undervaluation and marginalization of women's contributions to science and other fields throughout history. Named after suffragist Matilda Joslyn Gage, who highlighted this phenomenon in the late 19th century, it describes the tendency to attribute the achievements of women scientists to their male colleagues or to overlook their contributions entirely. The Matilda Effect underscores the importance of recognizing and addressing gender bias in academia and beyond to ensure equitable recognition and advancement for women in their respective fields. Eunice Foote's invention of the thermostatic stove and discovery of the Greenhouse effect provides a clear example of the Matilda Effect in action.

ABOUT EUNICE NEWTON FOOTE (1819 - 1888)

Women have been making significant contributions to science for centuries and receiving little to no credit for their work. Project "Footeprint' is inspired by the life of Eunice Foote (1819–1888) who discovered the heat-absorbing property of carbon dioxide and water vapor and she described and theorized the gradual warming of the Earth's atmosphere in 1856 (!). She was the first to demonstrate what today we call the greenhouse effect.

Three years later, the well-known Irish physicist John Tyndall published similar results demonstrating the greenhouse effects of certain gases, including carbonic acid.

Presently, Tyndall's work is widely accepted as the foundation of modern climate science, while Foote's remains in obscurity. The reason? Women were practically excluded from the world of science in the name of their supposed 'natural inferiority'.

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