



Power of Feminist Art: The American Movement of the 1970's History and Impact

By Norma Broude, Mary D. Garrard

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Since its inception nearly 25 years ago the Feminist Art movement has presented a challenge to mainstream modernism that has radically transformed the art world. In *The Power of Feminist Art*, coeditors Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard, professors of art history at The American University in Washington, D.C., bring together many of the influential art historians, critics, and artists who participated in the events of the 1970s. Together, they have created this landmark volume, the first history and analysis documenting this fertile and dynamic period of artistic growth. We learn about the first feminist art education programs, with artists Judy Chicago and Miriam Schapiro helping to lay the foundation; about the now legendary Womanhouse project; and about such banner exhibitions as "Women Artists: 1550-1950," organized in 1976 by art historians Linda Nochlin and Ann Sutherland Harris. We follow the development of the movement as seen in the various feminist organizations, networks, exhibitions, and publications it generated; and most particularly in the emergence of feminist art. Performance art, social protest and public art, and collaboration; exploration of such formerly taboo aesthetic areas as "Pattern and Decoration"; and subjects such as divinity and the body viewed from female perspectives are among the multiple aspects of the Feminist Art movement. The last section of the book traces the ups and downs of the movement, as experienced through the backlash of the 1980s and the resurgence of women's issues in the 1990s. Uncompromising, probing, thoughtful, and as provocative and exciting as the period itself, *The Power of Feminist Art* is an immensely stunning book. Reproductions of hundreds of works of feminist art from the 1970s and beyond - by such artists as Judith Baca, Harmony Hammond, Joyce Kozloff, Barbara Kruger, Ana Mendieta, Alice Neel, Faith Ringgold, Betye Saar, Miriam Schapiro, Cindy Sherman, Nancy Spero, May Stevens, and Hannah Wilke - and the

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Available in paperback for the first time, this landmark volume is the only comprehensive history of American feminist art available. Exhaustively researched, this book is encyclopedic in its documentation of the feminist art movement, which began more than 25 years ago in the United States, and that ultimately transformed the art world. The editors have brought together 18 influential art historians, critics, and artists to explore every aspect of feminist art. There are more than 270 illustrations (118 in full color) that feature the work of women painters, sculptors, photographers, and performance artists, and a fold-out, illustrated timeline presenting a selective chronology of important events in and surrounding the movement, from its earliest roots in the 1940s to the mid-1990s.

From Publishers Weekly

Collection of essays exploring various aspects of the feminist art movement.

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From Library Journal

With 245 illustrations (118 in color), this work boasts a partisan but invaluable recounting of the U.S. feminist art movement of the 1970s. Most of the 18 contributors to the handsome, large-format volume are prominent first-generation feminist artists/historians, including Judy Chicago, Miriam Schapiro, Arlene Raven, and Linda Nochlin. Editors Broude and Garrard provide a 1990s deconstructivist overview of the times, as well as individual essays. Their evidence shows that the movement was distinct from postmodernism, involving collaborative social and political acts of feminist consciousness-raising and not limiting itself to the problem of essentialism. Essays address the 1980s backlash against feminism, reevaluating the reasons for its controversial and still-shocking image-making. The notes and bibliography are excellent. Highly recommended.

Mary Hamel-Schwulst, Towson State Univ., Md.

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