

Transforming

Karen Atkinson Cheryl Bookout Fatemeh Burnes Audrey
Chan Sijia Chen Hyunsook Cho Margaret Garcia Hatsuko
Mary Higuchi Donna Hollander Cole James Leila Jarman
Niku Kashef Elizabeth Kneisley Isabelle Lutterodt Marisa
Mandler Dan Taulapapa McMullin Sandra Mueller Chloe
Jeehye Noh Gloria Plascencia Christy Roberts Ana Rodriguez
Linda Jo Russell Yoshie Sakai Hadi Salehi Bronwyn Towle
Ruth Trotter Ruth Weisberg Peggy Sivert Zask Zainab Zeb

Feminisms

TRANSFORMING FEMINISMS, *an Essay*

By Christy Roberts Berkowitz, 2014

I question the idea that to write academically, I must pretend that the I is not present. Indeed, I am present. I am witnessing. It was difficult to strategize the structure of this essay. Structures matter. I decided to write from a first person narrative because: 1. The narrative has, far too long, been determined by not me... and not most of the people I know. Creating a space for our voices is important for securing a future that looks like dignity. As Audre Lorde has written, "imposed silence about any area of our lives is a tool for separation and powerlessness" (The Cancer Journals, 1980). 2. I am an artist in this exhibition and I have an investment in it. You should know that I am not removed from my colleagues. I am a part of a community. I am a part of this community. 3. I am struggling to survive in a system that has violently and aggressively, traumatized and violated my body, my mind, and my spirit, for the sake of preserving patriarchy, and the various institutions that operate safely within it. I have a personal stake in Feminism. I have a personal stake in these artists. I have a personal stake in transparency. You should know all of this.

"By the excessive power of male tyranny which prevails against divine justice and the laws of nature, women's liberty is denied to them by law, suppressed to them by custom and usage, and eradicated by upbringing."
-Henricus Cornelius Agrippa, German Philosopher, 1529

"Feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression."
-Bell Hooks, 1984

"Beyoncé's critique of mainstream feminism may be musical, but it is still incisive, valid, and incredibly cogent right now. It's a lyrical explanation of what's wrong with assuming that being feminist requires one to follow a script, and not your own heart."
-Mikki Kendall, 2013

"There are two reasons why we frighten people. The first thing is that we're a feminist, female group with no men connected to it, and the second is that we don't have leaders. These two aspects, the structure that has no leaders and the emphasis on women, these are strongly connected. Russia has always linked the idea of leadership with some man or other, who can control things, and control women. A woman's group with no leaders... this activism comes from a place people do not recognize, and sets itself up against the structures of power."
-Schumacher, Pussy Riot, 2013

“No matter what issues I have with feminism, I am a feminist. I cannot and will not deny the importance and absolute necessity of feminism. Like most people, I’m full of contradictions, but I also don’t want to be treated like shit for being a woman. I am a bad feminist. I would rather be a bad feminist than no feminist at all.”

-Roxane Gay, 2014

If the presence and understanding of “male tyranny” was apparent in 1529, then Feminisms seem really obvious in 2014. It seems so obvious that women should choose who they marry, who to vote for, and what to do with their lives. It seems obvious that women should be paid equally and given equal opportunities. It seems obvious that women and girls should determine how they want to be seen without fear of judgment, not having the opportunities they want, or eliciting unwanted sexual advancements. It seems obvious that women and girls should have access to enough information to make reasonable choices about their lives. It seems obvious that women and girls should not be sexually, physically, and psychologically abused. It seems obvious that women and girls should not be sold into slavery. It seems obvious that women and girls should not be disproportionately affected by pollution and climate change. It seems obvious that the governance of women’s bodies should be determined by women, and not by very wealthy men, living very privileged lives, removed from the women they are legislating. All of these things seem obvious, but they are complex issues, woven into the fabric of our everyday lives, and when these ideas are applied to individuals and their situations, the obvious becomes abstract and reality becomes a layered web of institutions, indefinites, and real pain and isolation.

Feminism looks different for every individual and every community. The stakes change for every unquantifiable form of personhood. For example, as “Schumacher”, of art collective “Pussy Riot”, points out, “Russia has always linked the idea of leadership with some man or other, who can control things, and control women. A woman’s group with no leaders... this activism comes from a place people do not recognise, and sets itself up against the structures of power.” Bell Hooks specifically uses the term “sexism” in order to include men in the dialogue, by making sexism something women and men both participate in institutionally. “It is a definition which implies that all sexist thinking and action is the problem, whether those who perpetuate it are female or male, child or adult. It is also broad enough to include an understanding of systematic institutionalized sexism.” Schumacher and Hooks are getting at the same institutional issues, but the stakes look different in their respective strategies. Pussy riot feels that focusing on women is important in male-dominated

Russia, while Hooks feels that men should be included in the movement and that women are just as guilty of misogyny.

Bell Hooks has been very outspoken in her criticism of self-proclaimed feminist entertainer Beyonce, going so far as to call her “a terrorist especially in terms of the impact on young girls”, due to her perpetuation of seemingly unrealistic beauty standards, but according to Mikki Kendall, Beyonce’s approach to Feminism is more relevant for people today than a “script” of some kind.

The concept we know today as “Feminism” is something that, historically, has had the greatest impact on Caucasian women of the West. The Feminist movement in the United States, specifically, has its roots in the suffragette movement. Frances Willard, a pivotal suffragette, opposed the 15th amendment (in support of many other suffragettes at the time), complaining that black men should not be given the right to vote before white women. As complicated as the resulting history has been, if the suffragette movement in the United States is at the root of the American feminist movement, it is easy to see why women of color and non-whites might feel excluded. “Solidarity” often obscures other forms of oppression, and quite frankly, the experiences may be, at times, too expansive for solidarity.

Feminists come in all races, nationalities, ages, genders, gender expressions, sexualities, classes, statuses, etc. The reality is that there isn’t one “Feminism” that works for everyone. Sometimes Feminism doesn’t even work for Feminists. At that point, a prescribed “Feminism” is another form of oppression for the person it is supposed to be liberating. Like celebrated writer, Roxane Gay, many feminists struggle with what they “should” think and what they actually do think. What we do know and can agree on is that Feminism, in its most general form, is a movement for equality. It serves the movement more to build on a plural understanding of the Feminist experience, than it does to be paralyzed by delineating the boundless. And while the active part of feminism may, at this point, seem confounding, Feminism for a more conscientious future can be as simple as a way of thinking.

In a text by Catriona Macleod titled, “Radical Plural Feminisms and Emancipatory Practice in Post-Apartheid South Africa,” Macleod states, “Intellectual activism implies in this context: refusing abstractions that pre-define who one is, while at the same time strategically deploying plural identities around contingent issues; working in the bordersites of dominant understandings; identifying, communicating and acting upon trans-

versal relations of commonality; identifying and inhabiting the contradictions and disparities contained in dominant and oppressive discourses; and being constantly vigilant and reflective in terms of self, other, context, process, assumptions and theory.” Bolivian Anarcho-feminist collective Mujeres Creando’s concise version of this idea states, “Be careful with the present you are creating - it should look like the future you dream of.”

The artists in Transforming Feminisms are all working in dialogue with Feminism and are all careful with the present they are creating. Through a dialogue between curator and artist Peggy Zask and artist Donna Hollander, Peggy decided it was the right time to realize an exhibition that had been on her mind for some time, about contemporary female artists navigating feminism. The initial exhibition included Karen Atkinson, Fatemeh Burnes, Sijia Chen, Margaret Garcia, Hatsuko Mary Higuchi, Laila Jarman, Isabelle Lutterodt, myself (Christy Roberts), and Ruth Weisberg.

While preparing for the exhibition, another discussion between Peggy and Women’s Caucus For Art members Cheryl Bookout and Sandra Mueller expanded the exhibition to include multigenerational perspectives. At that point, the original artists were asked to bring in another artist of a different generation. This exhibition is a living exhibition. It has evolved and grown and will continue to expand and develop, just like Feminisms. People of multiple identities have been added, including artists who are male identified. Thus, pairs of artists emerged, using the conversations between themselves as a point of creation. The pairs that resulted are:

Karen Atkinson / Linda Jo Russell
Cheryl Bookout / Niku Kashef
Sijia Chen / Bronwyn Towle
Hyunsook Cho / Chloe Jeehye Noh
Margaret Garcia / Ana Rodriguez
Hatsuko Mary Higuchi / Yoshie Sakai
Leila Jarman / Zainab Zeb
Isabelle Lutterodt / Cole James
Sandra Mueller / Audrey Chan
Christy Roberts / Ruth Trotter
Ruth Weisberg / Marisa Mandler
Peggy Sivert Zask / Elizabeth Kneisley

Fatemeh Burnes, Donna Hollander, Dan Taulapapa McMullin, Gloria Plascencia, and Hadi Salehi each created independent works.

Exchanges that are happening between the pairs of artists include shared personhoods, shared experiences, and shared perspectives. Sijia Chen and Bronwyn Towle, for example, created a single mixed media work (below) that illustrates all three of these ideas. “Our piece is a contemporary expression of visual unrest appealing to Kwan Yin (the Chinese Goddess of Healing and Compassion) for help in elevating the status of women’s rights, both socially and politically. The blurred image was an attempt to replicate praying to Kwan Yin through the tearful eyes of women who are suffering or who have suffered indignities and inequalities worldwide.”



“Kwan Yin”- Goddess of Healing and Compassion, 2012
Mix-media on mylar
36” x 36”

During a meeting of the artists, approximately a month before the exhibition, the discourse unfolded even further, when the artists at the meeting agreed to add an “s” to the end of “Feminism”, in order to encompass the plural experiences of Feminisms. So that we could continue the conversation and build community, the artists also decided to use social networking platforms to share articles, stories, images, texts, and videos that they connected

to the idea of Feminisms. There were also efforts made through the partnerships, to bring in those who do not use as much technology. A community has truly formed. We care for each other. This is what Feminism looks like.

In this spirit, I met with my partner (my undergraduate advisor and mentor), Ruth Trotter, and we shared stories as female identified artists working in academia. Ruth and I have both been “mansplained” to, a term first used in the blog entitled “Academic Men Explain Things to Me,” “Where women recount their experiences of being mansplained, in academia and elsewhere.” As our dialogue evolved, it became clear that Ruth and I are interested, for this exhibition, in narratives. I decided to deal directly with the narrative of this exhibition by offering to the group, to create the catalogue as my partnered work for the exhibition. They very kindly and graciously agreed to it and encouraged me.

The origin of the word, “catalogue” is from the Greek, “katalegein”. “Katalegein” is used in Homeric language in regards to truth in narrative. It is based, not just on lists, but on whole truths. Whole truths, in Homeric language, involve as many questions as they do answers. In the spirit of “whole truth,” in which questions are asked and answered, I sent a series of questions to each of the artists in this exhibition. I do not speak for them. They are presenting their own ideas, specific to their perspectives, and I believe we will thrive in the realization of our plurality and our various world-views. I requested that each of the artists respond to the following prompts:

1. Your name as you would like to be represented in the exhibition
2. High resolution tiff(s) of your work in the exhibition or a an image(s) you would like to represent the work
3. Your personal definition of Feminism
4. Your personal definition of power
5. Your personal definition of agency
6. Why you identify, or perhaps do not identify as a feminist
7. At least a paragraph on your work for the exhibition
8. The best way to contact you for further exchange
9. The color that you feel best represents you

This is the resulting exchange from this request:

KAREN ATKINSON

Definition of feminism:

There is no one feminism. Feminism is defined by each individual on their own terms. They often differ between women, but the primary factor for me is non-discrimination towards any woman for any reason.

Definition of power:

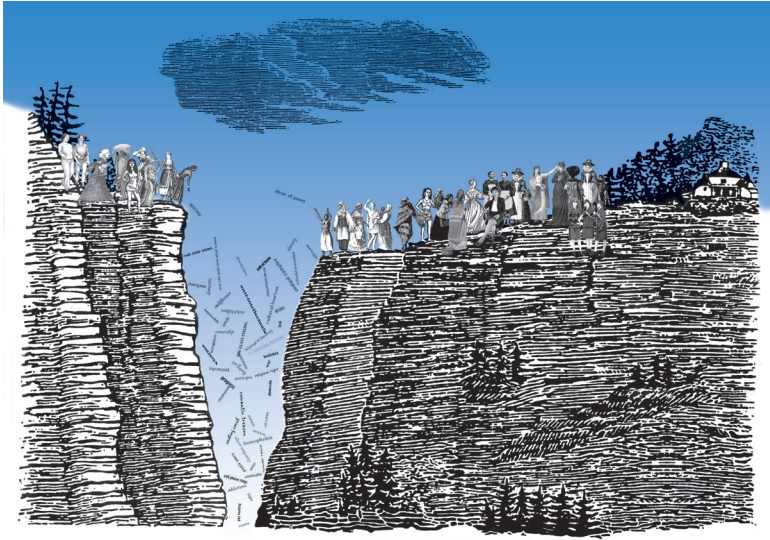
Power is what takes place over time to get sh*t done.

Definition of agency:

The capacity to get sh*t done.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I am old enough to have been denied applying for a job because I am a woman even though I was more than qualified. That just pissed me off.



The Abyss, 1236-2014

Digital print

27" x 39"

As an artist I am interested in the history of ideas. My work RANT/Tired explores a wide range of ideas on feminisms throughout history, some which appear contradictory to each other. Each image leaves a trace on the screen, which in turn “infects” the next image, thereby creating layers, juxtapositions and interwoven ideas. Projected on a glow-in-the-dark screen I created, the movie incorporates the images created by the screen as much as the projected images.

FATEMEH BURNES

Definition of feminism:

Feminism today focuses on reinforcing the rights of women and social equality. The ultimate aim is the social and personal empowerment of all humans.

Definition of power:

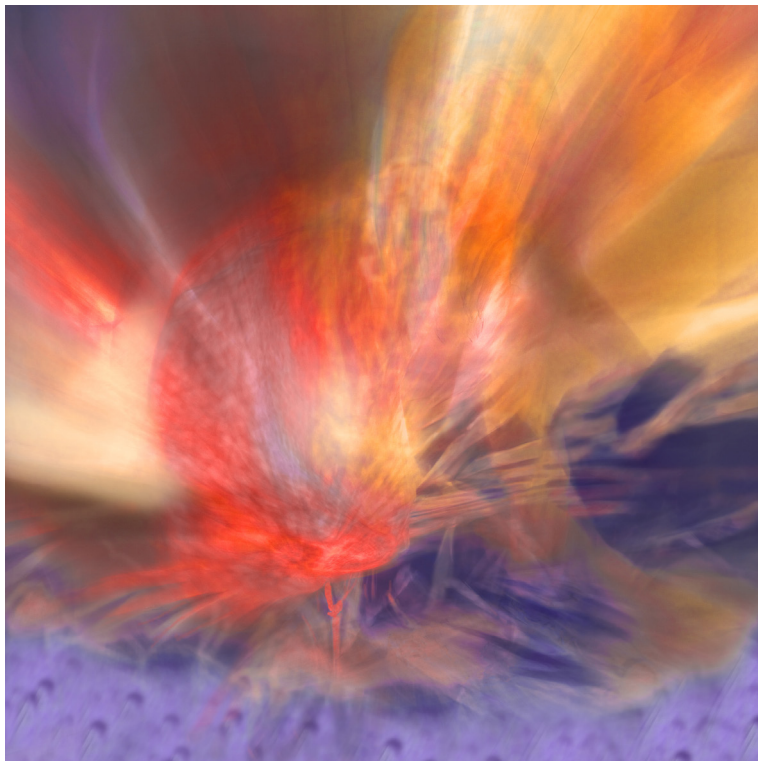
A clear awareness of one's personal philosophy, perspective, and practice, and the ability to synchronize and apply them.

Definition of agency:

The ability to consider many perspectives without losing sight of social, political, and cultural diversity or of individual choice.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I do believe women are not being treated equally nor being presented with equal opportunity. I also believe this does come not only from the way men treat women, but also how women treat women. The implementation of our beliefs regarding gender equality requires education and action. Achieving gender equality is the responsibility of both genders. If valuing equality makes me a feminist, then that is how I identify.



It's Mine

My art does not “represent” feminism per se. However, my subconscious thinking is inevitably impacted by the human condition and how women are regarded in certain cultures and regions, a notion that sometimes finds its way into my work. Of course, this does not make me a feminist, but simply a female. My gender, my personal history, the current social structure of my birthplace, and my compassionate nature all impact my creative process. Matters of femininity and masculinity do not appear in my artwork. Rather, I choose to embrace the unity of the two and look forward to a state of universal respect where feminism is no longer an issue.

SIJIA CHEN

Definition of feminism:

Be true to yourself, express your views, and fight for what you believe in.

Definition of power:

Honesty is the greatest form of power.

Definition of agency:

The ability to control my personal journey towards fulfilling my destiny.

Identifies:

I do not necessarily identify myself as a feminist. I believe that men and women are equal, and we should all live as we choose without restriction or judgment.



Welcome to My Mystery, 2012
Mixed media on mylar
58" x 58"

Abstraction is the primary language I speak through my paintings and drawings. This language is subconscious and intuitive, yet it still manages to articulate the state of my world. My work, while simultaneously indebted to yet differentiated from the history of abstract painting/drawing, is committed to the idea that abstraction in painting/drawing does not necessarily carry information that is merely graphic and/or subjective, but can also have an active relationship with the real world. "Welcome to My Mystery" was created during the time I just moved to Los Angeles. I felt lost being alone in this metropolitan city, but I was also excited for the upcoming exploration. With this complex feeling, I created an imaginary world, which are reflections of my reality and my response to it. I draw on my personal experiences, emotions, and expectations, transferring them into abstract gestures and marks, treating them as residents in this imaginary world and allowing them to develop organically on their own. This process frees me of having any assumption before starting a work, with the final product an unexpected image that is a stream of consciousness throughout the creative process, an expansive environment where my self-reflections and my imagination are preserved and nurtured.

MARGARET GARCIA

Definition of feminism:

I believe a true feminist can be female or male. It is a person who values the work, rights, and opinion of both genders and seeks to be fair in the treatment of the other. Most definitely I would consider myself a feminist.

Definition of power:

The ability to do the things you should do.

Definition of agency:

I would have to agree with the Wikipedia: "In the feminist context, agency is used to describe the universal core to feminism and to equality more generally. The concept builds on the ideas of bell hooks, Janet Halley, and other feminist scholars, that feminism as a movement must universalize, and to include men, if it is to remain relevant. As both critical and concrete issues of feminism are re-characterized as a struggle for agency, the cause of women and feminism is advanced."

My personal perspective:

THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY IS ADVANCED. JUST AS A SLAVE SUFFERS,. THE INEQUALITY OF THE MASTER IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY DAMAGING TO BOTH AND IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF A SUSTAINED EQUILIBRIUM WHERE EMOTIONAL GROWTH LEADS TO POSITIVE EVOLUTION OF HUMANITY.

Identifies as a Feminist:

To not identify as a feminist is self defeating. My ability to pursue HAPPINESS would be compromised.



Self Portrait, 2014
Oil on canvas
36" x 48"

At almost 63 I cannot discuss transforming unless I am speaking directly about my own experience. It is important to validate ourselves by acknowledging our individual journeys. Thus I offer you this self portrait. Who I am becoming, what I have embraced and what I have discarded. What I have embraced; beauty in strength, comfort in being myself. Confidence in what I see is the truth. I do remember and want to remind others of how unable I was to open a bank account without my husband's signature in 1970. Now in my 60s I am a newly wed and find amusing to experience the joy and happiness of love. What I have discarded; is a need to please and the idea that others know better than I. It doesn't mean that doubts about my perceptions don't arise, but not because I don't trust my instincts or what I know.

Two things come together for me here. 1st the idea that there is a spiritual commitment and second the acceptance of an art form (the tattoo), from something I was raised to think was gritty, indigenous and not lady like to express a more elegant search for the sublime.

HATSUKO MARY HIGUCHI

Definition of feminism:

For me, feminism is an attitude or mindset that gives me the agency to achieve my dreams without other prior judgment of my gender and race, but based rather on my innate talents, learned qualifications, and my commitment to do the best I can in any endeavor.

Definition of power:

Power to me, is to be able to do what I want with my life and find accomplishment in achieving my goals. I am constantly raising the bar of my expectations higher, because I am committed to life-long learning—always striving to educate myself, always hungry for new knowledge and information on learning to become better at what I do.

Definition of agency:

My sense of agency came from my mother, who always taught me to do my very best, and did it by personal example in overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles. When my father unexpectedly died—soon after placing a down-payment on a 10-acre farm—my mother, who spoke little English, had no prior experience with farming and had four small children to support, decided to pursue their original plan and worked the land herself. When her children were grown and had left the nest, she took classes that interested her and travelled extensively in the U.S. and abroad.

Identifies:

I am not a card-carrying member of any feminist organization, but I agree with their concerns and expectations because, while I was able to do more than my mother's generation, my career options were still much more restricted than those open to contemporary women. I became a teacher which, along with nursing and senior clerical jobs, were the conventional and stereotypical "professional" careers open to educated women. After I graduated and began teaching elementary school, I enrolled in classes of personal interest—designing and sewing my own clothes, blacksmithing, metal-smithing, and woodworking—in which I designed and constructed my own furniture. I continue my interest in various forms of art, and follow social justice issues. These activities continue my evolution as a complete person in what we call a participatory democracy.



Sayonara Okasan, 2012
 Watercolor
 22" x 30"

My “EO 9066 Series” is based on the Executive Order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, which excluded “All Persons of Japanese Ancestry” (Nikkei), and led to their mass removal to sites far removed from the Pacific Coast. By Winter 1942, 120,000 Nikkei on the U.S. mainland were prisoners behind barbed wire, guard towers, and military police with orders to shoot. I was incarcerated at age 3 with my family at the Poston, Arizona concentration camp from 1942 to 1945. I was not taught about the wartime experience from my family or my teachers at all levels of education. In the concentration camps, 5 families shared each tarpaper barrack, with no privacy and a total breakdown of traditional familial roles. Everyone stood in line at mess halls, latrines, and showers. Men lost every vestige of authority and self esteem. One statistic is that no less than 40 percent of all Nikkei males did not survive to age 60 because of “emotional and psychological castration.” Thus, women played an extraordinary (and still unsung) role in keeping families together, not only during the mass incarceration, but also through the decades after the war, as families struggled to rebuild their lives.



#1 (*Incidental Metamorphosis I, II & III*)
Digital art collage
11" x 8.5"

This work confronts the limitations and boundaries created by the language(s) and ideologies behind the broad term "feminism." What it is to be a woman and to strive for a sense of authentic equality in society often gets overshadowed by what we/you/they perceive as "feminist" or not. There is no primordial understanding of or inherent meaning in the word "feminist." This piece confronts the stereotypes and jargon of the infinite limitations and interpretations of what feminism means.

ISABELLE LUTTERODT

Definition of feminism:

Understanding that my abilities are not limited in anyway by my sex or ethnicity.

Definition of power:

I am powerful.

Definition of agency:

An urgent need to for response.

Identifies as a Feminist:

My identification with being a feminist is a recent development as my perception of its definition seemed filtered through a white woman's perspective. It did not include my realities or the realities of women of color or women who are bi-racial. As I get older my ownership of the word is in relationship to what I support. I support a woman's right to choose and receive equal pay for equal work. I support the ability for women and girls to navigate the world without their bodies being objectified or subjected to acts that are against their will.



Unmeasured: Meditation on Anger, 2014
Digital photograph

“Meditation on Anger” is part of a triptych entitled “Unmeasured”. Shot on a train leaving Edinburgh, Scotland the work was my way of processing a racially motivated verbal assault that occurred in 2012. While this piece explores details of a personal attack it rests within a more subtle landscape where the black female body has held the tension of being hyper sexualized and deneutered; marginalized and commodified; loved and scorned; loud and ignored. I wonder how these experiences can enrich our collective understanding of how to hold the tension in order to see the larger world that lies just beyond those binary constructions.

Unmeasured is a series of meditations that explore heartbreak within a physical and psychological landscape. The work responds to Parker Palmer’s idea that when the heart breaks open it has a “new capacity to hold [my] pain and [my] joy and a new capacity to hold the same in the larger world”. The series is part of an ongoing attempt to hold the tension of heartbreak with compassion as the physical and psychological landscapes reveal moments that contemplate resolve and what “letting go” means.

CHRISTY ROBERTS BERKOWITZ

For the sake of this catalogue, I have added my mother's maiden name as a gesture that I am not, nor have I ever been, the property of a single human being.

Definition of feminism:

Liberation FOR gender.

Liberation FROM gender.

No one owns feminism, community, and cooperation. No one owns patriarchy, misogyny, and coercion.

Community:

as an alternative to patriarchy, the Prison Industrial Complex, Military Industrial Complex, and white male supremacy

Definition of power:

The ability to control that which exists out of the bounds of one's self.

Definition of agency:

The ability to govern one's self and actions, wholly and truly.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I have never not been a feminist. My mother is a feminist. My father was a feminist. My mother's parents were collectivists and feminists. Their parents were revolutionaries and feminists.

I identify as a radical, queer, pop, valley girl, hard femme, anti-racist, anti-ableist, eco anarcho-feminist abolitionist because white male supremacy is waging a war on the rest of us. If you don't see it, it's because you're benefitting from it. If you do see it, you should do something to stop it. People are fucking dying.



Been Bag, 2013-ongoing
Various fabric and styrofoam
dimensions vary

My work seeks to reconcile revolution and escapism.

There are two projects present in this exhibition . One is this catalogue; a representation of plural community.

The other is a series of soft sculpture in which I am exploring the concept of traumatized bodies. Traumatized bodies need boundaries. To heal is to learn to receive other bodies without compromising those boundaries. I seek this for my identified ethnic group (Jewish people) and I seek this for myself. These “Been Bags” are a physical and formal representation of these ideas.

RUTH WEISBERG

Definition of feminism:

As an artist and Professor of Fine Arts for many years I have tried to encourage successive generations of young women to express their sense of identity and self-worth. This is a self assignment as well, of course.

Definition of power:

Power as a thing in itself can serve people with very dangerous motives as well as good intentions. When 'power' is joined to a generous or positive purpose it can enhance one's effectiveness enormously.

Definition of agency:

Agency has been defined as: "the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices." I think this is what it means to be a grown-up.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I'm a third generation Feminist; -- my maternal grandmother marched with the Suffragettes, and my mother was on the first 'Commission on the Status of Women' in the state of Illinois. I am proud to have played a very active role in the feminist movement among artists and art historians both nationally and in Southern California. And the need to think about these issues and to act on our convictions is still very much with us.



Preparations, 1991
Conte crayon and graphite
25 3/4" x 19 3/8"

The major themes of my artwork over the years have been time, memory and a deepening sense of identity as a Jewish American woman. The work in this exhibition reveals all of these sources of inspiration. I often ask my daughter or niece to act out a biblical story or emulate a figure from the history of art. So among my works for this exhibition you'll find my daughter Alicia, in the guise of biblical matriarch 'Rachel' and my niece Susanna carries a vessel as 'Rebecca' might have at the well. Alicia also is costumed as the young woman in a painting by Corot that I grew up admiring at the Chicago Art Institute. The element of 'time' is the particular focus of 'Times Three' which includes the passage of time and perhaps the impossibility of ever being totally present and free of the realm of memory.

CHERYL BOOKOUT

Definition of feminism:

The advocacy of equity for all people regardless of gender, color or religion. Basic human rights. I believe Feminism is all inclusive.

Definition of power:

Power can be a social structure not always equitable while.

Definition of agency:

Agency is the ability/capacity to act or create change.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I believe in equal rights - social, political, and economic for all. In this way, I identify as a Feminist.



A Room of Her Own, 2010
Acrylic on panel
48" x 30"

My work tends to be illustrative, always content based, with an element of fantasy. I work on a series of drawings or paintings, exploring the questions I am pursuing until I feel like I can push no further. The common thread in my art and life's work is equity for women. This is reflected in all I do as an artist, mother, grandmother, sister, daughter and friend. "A Room of Her Own" was made after many conversations with my 6-year old granddaughter about her life's ambition to be a princess - a product of how her life has been marketed to her. This specific piece was inspired by a small princess doll I found especially frightening that was a girl's gift in a happy-meal. The princess I depict wears combat boots and is protected by a snarling doberman as she marches forward in her own space, oblivious to the unknown monster lurking close behind.

AUDREY CHAN

Definition of feminism:

My feminism came from being raised by a mother and grandmothers who owned their power as matriarchs, and a father who never has and never will believe that daughters are lesser than sons. I first learned the word “feminist” in elementary school from a children’s book about Gloria Steinem. Her example normalized the idea of a woman agitating for change and equality. It also introduced me to the idea of going undercover (in her case, as a Playboy bunny) to subvert and expose a man’s world. Feminism also means my community of idealistic individuals--thankfully, not always of like mind--who collectively agree upon the necessity to disrupt the status quo in support of humanistic principles.

Definition of power:

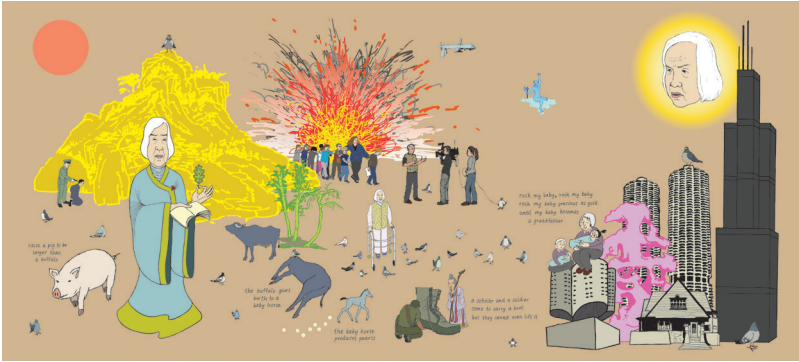
Power is laughter and tears.

Definition of agency:

Agency is getting your hands dirty, training your voice to project, and remaining unflappable in the face of both the petty distractions and intractable injustices that seemingly govern our contemporary society.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I forthrightly and positively identify as a feminist because I have the right to invest the word with my own meaning and experience. For me, it defines not a historical moment but an expansive identification inclusive of generation, race, and gender.



Center of the Universe, Ahma (detail), 2013-2014
Inkjet on paper
21” x 46.5”

“Center of the Universe, Ahma (detail)” is a visual response to heroic populist representations of the immigrant’s journey and the feminist maxim of “the personal is political.” In the tableau, the artist’s grandmother, Sool-sin Chan Ling (or Ahma), is a matriarchal protagonist who appears and reappears within a landscape that is both peaceable and plagued. Scenes are distilled from the 24-hour news cycle, family lore, and personal obsessions into a graphic narrative “herstory.” Chan’s mundane and fantastical vignettes are influenced by the artwork of Saul Steinberg and Öyvind Fahlström, Richard Scarry’s *Busytown* books, Chinese landscape painting, and the imaginative play between figure and space in Gothic and Renaissance narrative cycles.

HYUNSOOK CHO

Definition of feminism:

Feminism is the moral capacity to understand the different roles given to men and women in society, how these roles have resulted in unfair treatment of women, and the determination to fight for fairness, justice, and equity for women in the home and society in general.

Definition of power:

Power is using my knowledge and education to make positive change in the world around me.

Definition of agency:

Agency is the capacity for taking action — exercising power from a position of strength, self-awareness and purpose. It means accepting the responsibility to use every means at my disposal, especially my art, to communicate honestly my view of society, and not to be deterred by the opposite attitudes of others.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I am a feminist. I saw this inner strength in my grandmother and mother before me, and I work hard to express this determined character in myself and consequently in my art.

Traditionally, when we use the phrase “mother and child,” most of the time the listener or viewer is picturing “mother and son.” This shows that the idea of “mother and daughter” is somewhat unclear, and as a primary relationship it is very complicated. Many cultures today still mean that parents prefer a baby boy over a baby girl; yet experience shows that parents usually find it is a daughter who accepts the role of caregiver when they are older. Thus there is a contradiction between the masculine expectation of wanting sons and the inherent benefit to society that comes from having daughters who become nurturing mothers and caregivers.



Mother and Child-1, 2014
Graphite on paper
14"x11"

Because of this social attitude, for some it is a surprise that this outline of “mother and child” is a mother and daughter. It is part of a series that I have been working on for a few years. It started with photographs of many subjects — some I knew and other I did not. I then explored the pictures by making them silhouettes and outlines. I found that this transformation allowed the viewer to become involved with the possible layers of meaning and experience and to use this imagination to fill in the blank (open) space of the images.

In this project I also tribute to my mother and grandmother, who were both strong women in their time. My grandmother wanted her daughter (my mother) to have a better life; and my mother wanted this for me. So again, the shape of the single woman standing really holds the character of all the generations of women who have had this kind of hope. Even though the form is natural and unaggressive, it still speaks to an unmovable power: A woman on her own, independent, determined, in spite of the social stereotypes that society tried to impose.

I plan to continue to explore this multilayered, intergenerational experience of women, which has a certain universal component nowadays.

DONNA L. HOLLANDER

Definition of feminism:

The meaning of feminism has evolved during the course of my life. As a young woman I was introduced to the radical idea that I was equal to the white males that I worked with and that I had control over my body and mind. When I first supported the cause 40 years ago, modern feminism was young. We saw that in order to be equal feminist ideals need to be ingrained in the culture as well as the society, not just relegated to the home. In order to be equal the idea had to be part of the culture, and supported by the society, which was not the case 40 years ago. My current understanding of feminism extends beyond being paid the same to include equality, responsibility, respect, and empowering free choice for all peoples regardless of gender, skin color, or station. The Feminist movement has changed since it first started, however there is still much to change because in order for there to be true equality the idea needs to be a part of the culture and supported by society.

Definition of power:

With power come choices. On one hand it can be used to subjugate others; on the other hand power can be used to help those who can't help themselves. It can empower people to take control and responsibility for their own lives.

Definition of agency:

Agency is the willingness and capability to precipitate events.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I'm a Feminist because I believe in empowering all peoples to be responsible for their life choices, in having true equality for all peoples, so a society can be created that is truly free.



Dr. Maya Angelou, 2014
Mosaic, ceramic tile, glass tile, dichroic glass tile, hand etched tile, hand
made porcelain tile
32.5" x 24"

This first series of work, 6 drawings and 6 mosaics, for my project "Mothers to Humanity" represents a year of research and expressing that research through my art. The idea for this project started in 2007 when I was commissioned to make a Frida Kahlo Madonna. That piece inspired me to ask myself questions about what icons were, how they influenced society, and what modern day icons were. I concluded that a Madonna represented a powerful image that conveyed the strength, love, education and wisdom of women who have changed our world in beneficial ways. This body of work represents the beginning of my quest to express what these women mean to me in context of our society and their time.

At present I have a list of 40 women who have been monumental in their unparalleled contributions to the world, woman who have changed the course of history for women and all of humanity.

COLE M JAMES

Definition of feminism:

I do not have a personal definition of Feminism. Or rather, I am content with feminism being the pursuit of equal representation of genders especially on matters of agency.

Definition of power:

Power, I must admit it is difficult to think about power as an abstract idea. It is a force that infiltrates areas of my world everyday. I understand there are academic representations of power. However these representation are insignificant when compared to my daily experience. Idealistically I studied the agency of Power and viewed it as a concept that existed, but I was unaware of the impact it would have on my liberty.

Definition of agency:

Agency: the ability to affect change

Identifies:

I identify as a person of color.



Brown Trigger, 2014
Ink & pencil drawing on exposed blueprint paper & vellum
18" x 24"

Educational Institutions are spaces of inquiry and dialogue. When inquiry and constructs combine, complications with language can arise. It is my experience within these institutions that is the subject of Brown Trigger. I have collected a selection of quotes from female members of my educational community that triggered incipient racial tension. These phrases caused me to question the parameters of racial insensitivity and ask,
...how does one go about discussing transgressions between allies when discussing race?

The work is composed of a series of written quotes on exposed blueprint paper layered on top of vellum contour drawings of gun triggers.

NIKU KASHEF

Definition of feminism:

The theory and practice of equality regardless of gender, race, affiliation or belief that benefits human kind as a whole.

Definition of power:

The ability to change or guide behavior or events.

Definition of agency:

The action or choice of the individual.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I believe-in equal rights, treatment and equity for all. I identify as a feminist.



The House of Life and Death, 2007-2010
Archival chromogenic print
40" x 40"

My work explores geography, biography and place often dealing with subjects of identity, specifically that of “girlhood” and the displacement of home. I question the action of growing-up and growing-into the world. I work across various media to story tell, playing with both whimsy and the uncanny. Works are concept driven and often grow from collaborative initiatives with communities of non-artists. “The House of Life and Death” is a part of the cosmology, “Monsters in the Closet.” These narratives are constructed from hundreds of collected, crowd sourced, childhood memories, including my own. In this image, a young girl stands in her room, confronting an unseen viewer with a bow and arrow. The room was built with her help in a stable, it is her very own room. At her feet are symbols of time and change - giant hatched butterfly chrysalis and antlers, while safely at her back, her bed is covered with her stuffed horses. The image is about change and uncertainty; that which comes to us with time and circumstance as an opposition in which we have no control, be it between girlhood and adulthood, or life and death.

ELIZABETH KNEISLEY

Definition of feminism:

“Feminism” is a fluid term that has changed throughout the course of history. Today, feminism is the equality between men and women, primarily focusing on women’s issues, politically, socially and economically. Globally, feminism brings together and benefits women, men, and all people of different genders, classes, and races.

Definition of power:

Power is the ability to influence others through your actions and speech. Power can be used for good, but can easily turn into something terrible when used inappropriately for selfish motives.

Definition of agency:

Agency is a group of people who band together and work toward one common motive.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I identify as an active feminist. As an active feminist, I coordinate a sex and gender discussion group, “Pink Sheep,” on my college campus (CSUF) through the WoMen’s Center. My goal is to raise awareness about the political and social issues relating to sex and gender in the US and globally. I hope to shed light on the young men and women on campus and leave them with the motivation to think about their choices and become more open minded and understanding toward all identities.



Global Women, 2014
Mixed media
dimensions vary

Along with the collaborative piece with my partner, Peggy Zask, I have created pendants called, "Global Women." Each pendant is hand crafted, made with wood, painted wooden women veneers, and hemp chord. Each little women, has a different symbol, national flag, or colorful pattern. These pendants symbolize the diversity of women across the global. They are reminders that even though we all act differently and look differently, we are all women, and we need to band together and lift each other up in order to progress.

MARISA MANDLER

Definition of feminism:

Having a sense of personal freedom and self confidence despite external pressures.

Definition of power:

The ability to keep your head up and continuously move forward.

Definition of agency:

Identifies as a Feminist:

I come from a long line of powerful, self-governed women who taught me to unconditionally stay honest with myself.

Despite any other political or socio definitions of identifying as a feminist, I believe it all starts with a strong foundation of yourself. Once you are operating from this place of security, everything else will fall into place.



The Rescued, 2012

Ink on paper

14" x 11"

Marisa Mandler is a multidisciplinary artist working across the mediums of drawing, sculptural installation, sound and writing. Through mark making, transcription and recording, everyday events and actions become documented gestures which speak to a larger narrative about the impossible human desire for control and perfection. Culling from a multitude of imagery and reference material, Mandler finds associative meaning and draws comparisons between the personal quotidian and a larger collective experience. Repetitive processes of investigation reveal the peripheral, conceptual and emotional underpinnings of Mandler's subject matter. It is through these revelations that the significance of this "negative space" becomes apparent.

"The Rescue Drawing series was a series inspired by images of people being rescued from war. I am very moved by ballet and choreography, and after finding a book of Russian, army rescue tactics from WWII, I was taken with the choreographic element to these techniques. This series of drawings are studies which explore the body dynamics of carrying a limp body out of duress, harkening a tenderness as with a mother embracing her child, Jesus being carried from the cross, and other such iconic human interactions."

DAN TAULAPAPA McMULLIN

Definition of feminism:

For me Feminism is relationships and often concerns justice. As a fa'afafine, queer or transgender in Samoa Islander society, I view Feminism as a way of making life just, between all genders and those without gender.

Definition of power:

Power to me is what we Polynesians call Mana, the spiritual power we get from our relationships.

Definition of agency:

Agency is to know and feel one's desire, to know and feel is the beginning and wellspring of agency.

Identifies as a Feminist:

Women's thinking inspires my intellectual life as an artist, so to me to be an artist is to be a feminist.



Fa'agogo, 2014
Oil and vinyl paint on canvas
48" x 48"

In my work I look at painting, which for me includes any form of 2-dimensional art making including photography and visual forms of conceptual poetry, as a narrative that attempts to express time as well as space within a form of notation in color, tone, and surface.

Mirror is a photo-collage of images I took in Samoa. The main image is of my friend Ruby taken while we were getting ready to go out for the evening with friends. The doubled image in gold is a photoshopped photograph of a tia or memorial in Samoa and represents here the blessing of ancestors.

Fa'agogo is a painting that makes a narrative of my life at this moment, it is a nude descending a staircase, the subject of my life as a dream, a landscape of a dream, and in this work I looked to color as a way to connect forms within the landscape.

In my new book of poems, Coconut Milk, in my poems and in my paintings and photography, I attempt to express my experience, my body, my relationships, and concepts, within forms that have the weight of history, but what history teaches is changeable because all our histories and herstories are different, in that regard I express my difference.

SANDRA MUELLER

Definition of feminism:

Feminism offers an expansive, multi-centered and often, experimental space to address gender and cultural differences. It makes public an array of pervasive hidden harms and inequities while striving to develop the personal resources in each member of the community to address them. It is also a framework for empowerment that welcomes difference as a cornerstone of a healthy community that is continually refined by its participants.

Definition of power:

Power is the capacity to do the work needed to make the changes that are desired and sustain those efforts over time.

Definition of agency:

Agency involves personal and communal actions, shared strategies and open communication that generate new sites and modes of collaboration that can sustain a feminist / humane agenda across generations and genders as well as cultural identities and conflicts.

Identifies as a Feminist:

Why would I not identify as a feminist? The kindest, most interesting, generous people of all genders that I know fall into this camp. Plus, they make stirring art.



STANDING TALL: Connections, 2006-2012
Archival digital print
18" x 14"

The “Standing Tall” series features female guardian figures that reach skyward on a vertical plane while simultaneously referencing shadows existing on the horizontal plane. Each figure has a strong tie to nature and places of origin that helped seed my feminist perspective. The earliest work titled “Connections” was created outside a small family cabin in the San Bernardino Mountains. “Perseverance” came next and is a hybrid work that combines the base of a tree at Snoqualmie Falls near Seattle with an upright figure that emerged during a morning walk in Balboa Park. Finally, the “Red Tara” image comes from the Applegate Valley in Southern Oregon where I grew up. Known in Buddhism as the “mother of liberation,” Tara represents both the virtues of success in work and achievements in the outer world and the values of compassion in the inner world—the very qualities needed to transform culture and make lasting changes.

CHLOE JEEHYE NOH

Definition of feminism:

I believe that power of women comes from being able to give birth to a child. I believe that this ability to create life in this world has been given to us by God and his nature, and I believe that this nurturing quality should be cherished by both male and female. Women are less stronger than men by nature, but I believe that our core is and will stand just as strong. Women, especially Asian women, might identify as obedient and submissive, but it is crucial to find that we have equal voice and rights just as men and should be treated as same as men. For this reason I am a pro feminist who fights for gender equality, whether it is about equal opportunities, equal pay or treatment.

Definition of power:

The ability to influence and others and make change.

Definition of agency:

Act of influence through the people.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I definitely identify as a feminist artist because I believe in gender equality and equal human rights among all individuals. All humans have equal rights and society should reflect this by given opportunities, pay, and treatment to both genders in equal.



Equality, 2014
Oil on canvas
30" x 24"

For the “Transforming Feminisms” show I made my piece specifically on psychologically, emotionally and physically abused women. I think that these women especially need power in voicing themselves out and need support. While preparing for the show what came to my mind is that through the history women have been degraded and controlled in thoughts and action, and what we could do to make a difference for the next generation of women. Through this piece I wanted to show that women could empower ourselves by standing strong in keeping our own identity as women and individuals, whether your role in society is as a caring mother, hard working women, experienced older or growing younger women.



Voiceless Pain: He Loved Me...He Loved me NOT, 2014
Inkjet print, fabric, acrylic paint
16" X 20"

The theme that I've selected for this exhibition is "Domestic Abuse": I've created a portrait of the victim and a wall for her to voice out her anger towards the abuser by writing at least four phrases that she thought of based on her experience. The images are then framed in window like frames representing the framework of a home and the hidden truths that exist within.

ANA RODRIGUEZ

Definition of feminism:

Being able to look back in time and appreciate the struggle and fight for what is yet to be done.

Definition of power:

Doing your will without the opinions or inferences of others.

Definition of agency:

I act and do for myself.

Identifies as a Feminist:

As a first generation Mexican American there were many differences that I was able to encounter growing up especially watching the differences between my female cousins growing up in Mexico and the ones living in the United States. In America and as an American I had to fight to become my own individual and to make my own decisions. Deciding to get an education higher than a High school diploma was a luxury.



Pink Painting, 2012
Oil on panel
60" x 48"

Ana Rodriguez grew up in the small community of Maywood, California, which is adjacent to the industrial cities of Commerce and Vernon and their numerous chemical plants, refineries, public waste areas and foundries. Rodriguez recalls being highly aware of the contrast between the putrid, foul smell of dead animals and the sweet scents from bakeries and cake shops from her city. Rodriguez combines patterns that range from kitchen cabinet liners, linoleum flooring, wallpaper, and fabric from her toys and clothes. The mix of sources is reflected in Rodriguez's paintings which combine brightly colored gesture/cake-like batter against the decorative. Ana Rodriguez earned a BFA from California State University, Long Beach (2007) and an MFA from Otis College of Art and Design (2009).



Which Ever Way The Wind Blows, 2014
Acrylic on canvas
40"X 30"

The important thing to me is making a connection with the self in relation to a larger universe, a place of selflessness. The natural world inspires a longing to intuitively explore a personal relationship with the unknown. These works reflect that yearning.



Video still from “KOKO’s Love: Episode 1”, 2014
Single-channel video
11:15

The second and third parts of the installation were inspired by my meeting with Mary Higuchi about the Japanese-American experience in the internment camps during World War II and life for Japanese-Americans since then from her personal experiences. My conversation with Mary really got me thinking about my personal history as well as those of Japanese-Americans in general. I was very inspired by her watercolors dealing with the subject of President Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 and her dedication to educating those about our history. This summer I took a workshop on fresco painting and for the very first time made a fresco. I thought it was fitting to make one representing a generation of a Japanese-American family in front of KOKO’s Liquor, as the liquor store was a business run by many Japanese-Americans to financially support their families. KOKO’s Liquor was one my father ran for 20 years. The framed photograph is a documentation of my fresco, which was painted on a wall inside a “barn” in Skowhegan, Maine. My video is embedded in a foam sculpture of a hybrid “Kokeshi” doll, a traditional wooden Japanese doll, which was carved to ward off fires or evil in general. The figures in my fresco are “Kokeshi” people, warding off evil for a prosperous business and life.

HADI SALEHI

Definition of feminism:

CONSTANT STRUGGLE TO HAVE EQUALITY FOR ALL WOMEN OF COLORS WITH MEN.

Definition of power and agency:

POWER to me is STRENGTH, ABILITY to influence the educate the cause and we need AGENCY to educate OTHERS.

Identifies as a Feminist:

YES I am pro FEMINISM. As any struggle which has a foggy ROAD, education can be ascensional. There is no difference between men and women except their physical shapes. Women, in many ways, are better because without them, the Nature can not complete.



Neda (the girl was shot to death during green movement in Iran), 2008

C print
24" X 20"

My work is about a poem and a woman which lost her life for a cause.

BRONWYN M. TOWLE

Definition of feminism:

The advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality to men.

Definition of power:

Physical force

Definition of agency:

The ability to act independently to make free choices

Identifies as a Feminist:

I am a third-generation Chinese-American woman and consider myself a feminist. I grew up hearing disturbing stories of how Chinese couples, under the One Child law, would leave their baby girls under trees to die as they preferred a male heir to perpetuate the family name. To this day, the Asian culture portrays women as gentle, silent, and obedient “lotus blossoms,” subservient to men. My mother and role model was not your typical Chinese woman in her time—she was an intelligent, beautiful, career woman and a single mother by choice. Her divorce from my father was unheard of back then and considered shameful. I grew up being respectful, obedient, and quiet. While my mother encouraged my brother to pursue a law degree, she also recognized that I was most passionate about art and with her financial support and blessing, I was on “my own” at the age of eighteen. Being alone since that time, I experienced—among other things—sexual harassment and assault. So, although my art reflects more the positive aspects I have experienced as a woman, I have very strong feelings against the inequalities and abuses that women—of all cultures—continue to suffer today. I identify with their pain.

Boys' disrespect to girls starts at home with the father's behavior towards the mother and women in general. It is vital that boys learn how to treat girls with respect and empathy (and vice versa) at an early age, so that both genders feel equally valued and recognized. Through my work as a role model and teacher, I have the opportunity to impress these values on all of my students, and I hope they will have futures of greater understanding and equality.



Big Attitude, 2011
Acrylic on canvas
4' x 3' x 2"

My own painting, "Big Attitude," epitomizes a CONFIDENT WOMAN
and definitely not your shrinking violet.

RUTH TROTTER

Definition of feminism:

Feminism is the philosophy and world-view through which access and opportunity exist equally and without bias for all people regardless of their gender, social, economic, ethnic, or religious status, based on an awareness that cultural influences exert power over experience, and that existing hierarchical and patriarchal models have historically held control of this power. Feminism asserts that the equal and respectful treatment of girls and women is empowering for both women and men.

Definition of power:

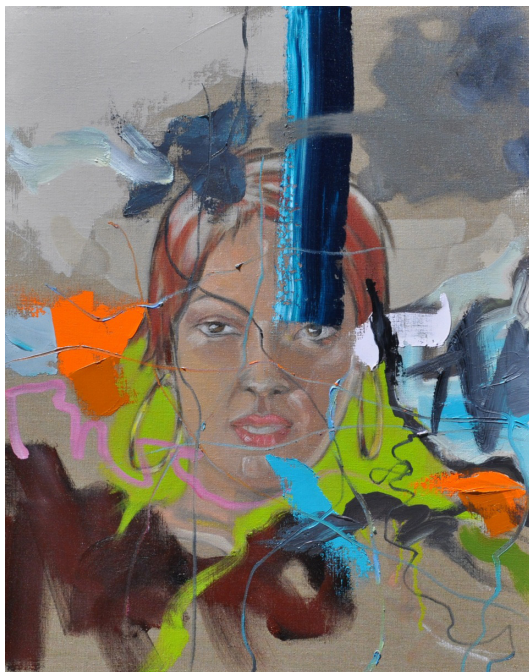
Power is the ability to influence, enable, or inhibit change.

Definition of agency:

Agency is the action of power through the individual.

Identifies as a Feminist:

I am a Feminist because I believe in the humanity and power of women.



Painting into Bitch, No. 2, 2014
Oil on linen
30" x 24"

The power of language and narrative is a persistent theme in my conversations with Christy Roberts, my partner for this exhibition. How do images and words take on meaning in different contexts and for different generations? One example is the word bitch and its use by women, younger women in particular, as a term of empowerment, as opposed to one of denigration. Similarly, images of women, previously understood to be exclusively the subject of the male gaze, are commonly appropriated, re-interpreted, and reclaimed by women as an empowering act, redressing the original sexist tropes of classical art, popular media, and pornography. The title of this series, *Painting into Bitch*, is an investigation of this theme. The paintings begin as representational portraits. The frontal pose of the figures references the Greek Kore, (female maidens from antiquity often associated with the ideal), though they are presented as contemporary women. Eventually, the portrait is transformed by what might be called a painterly intervention when more direct and aggressive marks are laid down, either obscuring, or emphasizing the presence of the sitter. While I see these works as complete paintings in formal terms, I also consider the potential for painting as a political act, and I return to a quote by Daniel Buren, "All acts are political, and whether one is conscious or not, the presentation of one's work/production does not escape this rule."

PEGGY SIVERT ZASK

Definition of feminism:

I define feminism as a social and political structure that evolves the status of women in the world in their quest for equality. It is an identity for the people who work actively toward this goal. It can be either sex or gender.

Definition of power:

Power is seeking truth and knowledge toward making the world better and taking what you find and directing it into places in need.

Definition of agency:

I always feel the need to speak out when I believe something is right or when I sense something is wrong. I try to live a good life by example and take on causes when I feel I have something unique and positive to give.

Identifies as a Feminist:

When I was in my 20s and 30s, I didn't identify with feminism – I felt it was anti men and I had good relationships with men. But as feminism seemed to shrink back in the last few decades...I have seen women become stronger without an identity of feminist. This is the first time I have used this word comfortably and feel that it does deserve a new definition and a new shot of energy.



South, 2014
Acrylic/oil on canvas,
36" x 48"

Collapsing woman on her back over a vessel of large eggs.
It Is personal statement -

This painting represents women who are working so hard to advance their role and make a difference. She takes on multiple roles in business and domestic life left feeling like the work will never be completed. The eggs seem as though they will never hatch.

ZAINAB ZEB

Definition of feminism:

The freedom to voice our inner thoughts, hopes, fears and beliefs is a basic right. It is an elemental part of being human - the right to give expression to the soul within us and to manifest the change we believe in. My life is one devoted to self-expression - it is the theme that underlies my passions and my struggles as an artist, an activist and a humanitarian.

Social justice, education equality, female empowerment - these are ideals that fuel my faith as a visual artist. My art is intensely meaningful to me - it expresses the turmoil and injustices I have seen in the world. But it also expresses the hopes and dreams I have for the world that could be: a world where women of all geographic locations, cultures and religions can find the freedom of their own unique voice, without being censored, silenced or subjugated.

My personal definition of feminism is one where I have perfected the imperfect mastery of completion. Where equality is in complete harmony and pure existence. It is a Utopia where I can embrace my womanhood and utilize my strengths without any barriers, limits, or constrictions.

Definition of power:

Power is a virtue as well as a vice. The ability to influence or control the behavior of the self, as well as others, has been a struggle for humanity for as long as we know. Power is slippery, and can be lost or taken away. It can also be regained, cultivated, developed, and nourished. In its utmost existence, power is a strength that defies all tests against the odds.

Definition of agency:

Agency is free will, autonomy, and completion of the self in the hierarchy of one's needs, without the influence of external factors affecting thoughts or behaviors.

Identifies as a Feminist:

As a feminist, I strongly adhere to the values of helping others, through solidarity and support. Feminism goes beyond a blood bond or genetic connection: As a feminist, I cannot imagine remaining in a "safe" zone, very well knowing that another woman may not be given the same opportunities or resources to live a life that is her own, free from pre-destined barriers or constricting norms.



Les Femmes 3 Serie, 2014s:

Femme i: Pure copper gilded on canvas, oil paints. 18x24

Femme ii: Pure sterling silver gilded on canvas, oil paints. 18x24

Femme iii: Pure 18k gold gilded on canvas, oil paints. 18x24

For this exhibition, I have created 3 paintings gilded in pure precious metal. The metal represents the physical and metaphorical element of existence. Each woman's silhouette is soft and surreal, with a juxtaposition of opaque and transparent colors. The gradating figures appear fragile and delicate, but are constructed on what represents an innate core of metal. They are bold, uninhibited in their form. They are, in essence, beautifully liberated, each within their own realm. The elemental alchemy symbols represent the raw self; having the capacity of being transmuted into a higher, incorruptible self.

Copper is associated with the goddess Aphrodite/Venus in mythology and alchemy, owing to its lustrous beauty. As such, this symbol embodies such characteristics as love, balance, feminine beauty, and artistic creativity.

Silver is associated with the moon, and the ebb and tide of energy. As such, silver holds philosophical traits of the feminine persuasion as well as attributes of intuition, inner wisdom, and contemplation.

Gold represents perfection in all matter, on any level. It also symbolizes humankind's goal to obtain perfection in mind and spirit. It is a transitional metal, symbolic of flexibility on our spiritual path while life experiences galvanize our faith.

OPEN Wall

South Bay Contemporary invites artists of all disciplines to submit two works related to the theme of the current exhibition at the time of installation.

Participating in OPEN Wall for
Transforming Feminisms:

Jane Aucreman

Julianna Vivien violetta Balogh

Paul Blieden

Jana Charl

Vivian Wenhuey Chen

Lucinda Rudolph Deeble

Gemma Del Rio

Bernard Fallon

Rachel Finkelstein
Shirley Asano Guldemann
Cie Gumicio
Lorraine Kushynski
Sierra Pollock
Amy Back Pozez
Nikki Winters-Reed
Marina Santana
Audrey Suer
Joyce Weiss
Jaye Whitworth
MC Wright
Joan Wynn
Ben Z Zask

SCWCA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S CAUCUS FOR ART

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Women's Caucus for Art (SCWCA) is one of 25 chapters of the Women's Caucus for Art, the leading national organization for women actively engaged in the visual arts professions. It is also an affiliated society of the College Art Association and founding partner of The Feminist Art Project. For almost 40 years, Southern California has benefitted from this feminist arts organization. Members develop friendships, exhibit and publish work and participate in stimulating dialogues with other women art professionals.

Learn more about The Southern California Women's Caucus at:

<http://www.scwca.org>

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V O I C E S
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Congratulations to Zainab Zeb and Leila Jarman for participating in Transforming Feminisms!!

Learn more about Women's Voices Now at
www.womensvoicesnow.org



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Because Feminisms are evolving, so shall this catalogue. Throughout the exhibition, there will be inserts that become available, so that you may update this document. Please contact Peggy Zask at pszask@gmail.com for access to the updates.