BAMPFA Presents Major Survey of Feminist Practices in Contemporary Art

On View August 28, 2021 through January 31, 2022

New Time: Art and Feminisms in the 21st Century
Encompasses 140 Works by a Wide Range of Contemporary Feminist Artists

Exhibition is Part of Nationwide Initiative for Feminist Art Programming in 2021

(Berkeley, CA) May 24, 2021—This fall, the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) will open the most extensive exhibition to date of feminist art practices in the twenty-first century. A sweeping survey of feminist art from the last two decades, New Time: Art and Feminisms in the 21st Century features 140 artworks by seventy-six artists and collectives working across a range of media. New Time is part of the Feminist Art Coalition, a nationwide consortium of more than one hundred arts organizations convened by BAMPFA, which is presenting a yearlong series of programming in 2021 informed by feminist thought and practice.

One of the largest exhibitions BAMPFA has mounted in its recent history, New Time will occupy nearly half of the museum’s 25,000 square feet of gallery space and will also include a newly commissioned site-specific work in BAMPFA’s lobby. The exhibition will feature dozens of works from public and private collections, as well as BAMPFA’s own holdings, organized thematically to highlight a wide range of practices in contemporary art informed by feminist themes. New Time is curated by Apsara DiQuinzio, BAMPFA’s senior curator of modern and contemporary art and Phyllis C. Wattis MATRIX Curator, who also spearheaded the creation of the Feminist Art Coalition.

In conjunction with the exhibition, BAMPFA is publishing a fully illustrated 240-page catalog, edited by DiQuinzio, that features new scholarship and interviews on feminist art topics. The catalog includes an
introductory essay by DiQuinzio that explores the multiplicity of feminist themes and concepts in the exhibition; critical essays by Lyn Hejinian, and Jamieson Webster and Chiara Bottici; a conversation between Judith Butler and Mel Y. Chen on the evolution of their thought on gender theory; a conversation between Julia Bryan-Wilson and Natalia Brizuela on recent international feminist art practices; a conversation between renowned Black scholar Hortense Spillers and notable younger Black feminists she has influenced; and individual essays focused on each of the artists and collectives featured in the exhibition.

New Time includes work by a diverse roster of artists of all genders whose practices reflect a wide range of approaches to engaging with feminist themes. International and intergenerational in its scope, the exhibition highlights both emerging and established artists who have shaped the trajectory of contemporary feminist art, including Louise Bourgeois, Judy Chicago, Chitra Ganesh, Nicki Green, Jenny Holzer, Ella Kruglyanskaya, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Simone Leigh, Kalup Linzy, Marilyn Minter, Zanele Muholi, Mai-Thu Perret, Pussy Riot, Carol Rama, Lara Schnitger, Amy Sillman, Kiki Smith, Sturtevant, Christina Quarles, R. H. Quaytman, Lorna Simpson, Lava Thomas, Wu Tsang, Kara Walker, Francesca Woodman, and many others. The works are grouped thematically into the following eight gallery sections:

- **Prelude: Arch of Hysteria** explores the negative cultural stereotype that women have had to overcome in the pursuit of social justice.
- **Returning the Gaze** features works that acknowledge and interrogate the complexities—and implicit power dynamics—of gendered spectatorship.
- **Time as Fabric** considers how artists reinterpret historical themes through a feminist lens in order to call into question previous treatments of a subject.
- **The Body in Pieces** demonstrates how many artists today are working with fragmented representations of the female body.
- **Gender Alchemy** examines the shifting categories of gender and how artists explore the representation of bodies that resist fixed binary gender delineations.
- **Womxn Workers of the World Unite!** focuses on the intertwined themes of activism, domesticity, and labor.
- **Too Nice for Too Long** looks at artistic meditations on the power of female anger.
- **The Future Is Feminist** presents visions of feminist utopias in literature and art that have yet to be realized.

Complementing these gallery sections, New Time will also feature a large-scale mural by Luchita Hurtado on BAMPFA’s Art Wall, a 30-by-63-foot space dedicated to site-specific commissions. Hurtado created the design for the abstract mural shortly before passing away last year at the age of ninety-nine, and its installation will be completed at BAMPFA this summer in accordance with her specifications.

BAMPFA also will mount a series of public and educational programs in conjunction with New Time, including performances, lectures, workshops, and more. On Saturday, December 18, BAMPFA will host a marathon seven-hour performance by the acclaimed pianist Sarah Cahill, who will perform more than seventy works by female composers from the Baroque era to the present day; the performance will take place in the Crane Forum at the center of the museum, where visitors will be invited to sit and circulate at their leisure. BAMPFA will also host a series of public conversations focusing on gender,
Black feminism, and recent feminist art practices, featuring leading scholars in the field including Natalia Brizuela, Julia Bryan-Wilson, Judith Butler, Mel Y. Chin, and Courtney Desiree Morris. Additional public programs will include artist talks, poetry events, and artmaking workshops; a full slate of programming, including specific dates, will be announced later this summer and will be listed at bampfa.org.

Titled after a feminist poem by the Berkeley-based poet Leslie Scalapino, **New Time** is one of the first exhibitions developed under the auspices of the Feminist Art Coalition, which was conceived by DiQuinzio in response to the 2016 presidential election. Supported by a grant from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the coalition began as a twelve-member working group and has since grown to include more than one hundred arts organizations across the country, which have partnered to present a nationwide series of exhibitions, performances, lectures, symposia, and new commissions on feminist themes. Following the scheduling disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic across the nation’s art institutions, what was originally intended as a three-month initiative coinciding with the 2020 presidential election has been expanded to a full year of programming that extends through 2021. More information about the Feminist Art Coalition, including a current list of participating institutions, can be found at feministartcoalition.org.

“**New Time** and the Feminist Art Coalition were both conceived in the aftermath of the 2016 election, an event that radically altered the course of American history,” said DiQuinzio. “It was impossible to imagine in that moment that our work would be disrupted by an even greater catastrophe, this time on a global scale. Yet even as we come to terms with the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped our lives, the vibrant social justice movements that have accelerated over the past year provide a hopeful reminder that a more just, equal, and inclusive world is still possible. It’s in that spirit that we look forward to opening **New Time** this fall: as an artistic and cultural call to action, and as a catalyst toward a more equitable future.”

The exhibition was originally scheduled to open in 2020 but, as a result of the pandemic, has been rescheduled to open on August 28, 2021.

**Image Credits**

1. Linda Stark: *Stigmata*, 2011; oil on canvas over panel; 36 × 36 × 3 in.; University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive; purchase made possible through a gift of the Paul L. Wattis Foundation.


**Sponsorship**

**New Time: Art and Feminisms in the 21st Century** is organized by Apsara DiQuinzio, senior curator of modern and contemporary art and Phyllis C. Wattis MATRIX Curator, with Claire Frost, curatorial assistant. The exhibition is made possible with lead support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Black/Sandquist Family, and the Scintilla Foundation. Major support is provided by the Paul L. Wattis Foundation. Generous support is provided by Phlyssa Koshland and The Simpson PSB Fund. Additional support is provided by Ethan Beard and Wayee Chu, Alexandra Bowes and Stephen Williamson, Sabrina Buell and Yves Behar, Penny Cooper and Rena Rosenwasser, Agnes Gund, Eileen Harris Norton, Thomas J. White and the Estate of Leslie Scalapino, Rena Bransten, Tad Freese and Brook Hartzell, Susan Swig, and Jaqueline Tully.

**Visitor Information**

*Subject to change based on COVID-19 protocols: visit bampfa.org/visit/plan-your-visit for current information.*
Hours
Fridays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. (members only), 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Tickets
$10 general admission
Free admission for BAMPFA members; UC Berkeley students, faculty, staff; 18 & under; one adult per child 13 & under; and artists in the BAMPFA collection/MATRIX
All visitors are required to have a timed ticket to visit the BAMPFA galleries, including those who receive free admission as a member, youth, or affiliate of UC Berkeley; visit bampfa.org to reserve tickets.

Address
2155 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94720
bampfa.org
510-642-0808

About BAMPFA
An internationally recognized arts institution with deep roots in the Bay Area, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is a forum for cultural experiences that transform individuals and advance the local, national, and global discourse on art and film. BAMPFA is UC Berkeley’s premier visual arts venue, presenting more than 450 film screenings, scores of public programs, and more than 20 exhibitions annually. With its vibrant and eclectic programming, BAMPFA inspires the imagination and ignites critical dialogue through art, film, and other forms of creative expression.

The institution’s collection of more than 28,000 works of art encompasses pieces dating from 3000 BCE to the present day and includes important holdings of Ming and Qing Dynasty Chinese painting, Japanese paintings and woodblock prints of the Edo period, Indian miniatures, Old Master works on paper, Italian Baroque painting, early American painting, Abstract Expressionist painting, contemporary photography, and conceptual art. BAMPFA’s collection also includes more than 18,000 films and videos, including the largest collection of Japanese cinema outside of Japan, impressive holdings of Soviet cinema, West Coast avant-garde film, and seminal video art, as well as hundreds of thousands of articles, reviews, posters, and other ephemera related to the history of film.