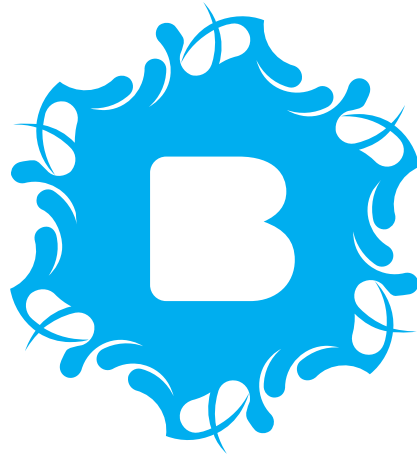


Press Release



August 2008

Feminist Works from Collections on View in Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art At Brooklyn Museum October 31, 2008 through February 8, 2009

Burning Down the House: Building a Feminist Art Collection, an exhibition of nearly 50 works drawn from the holdings of the Brooklyn Museum and the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art will be on view in the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art October 31, 2008 through February 8, 2009. Inspired by *The Dinner Party* by Judy Chicago, this exhibition features artists whose work has challenged the status quo and rise above the narrow roles imposed on women, particularly within the canons of art history.

The installation was organized by Maura Reilly, Curator of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, and Nicole Caruth, former Manager of Interpretive Materials. The exhibition title references the idea of the “master’s house” from two perspectives: the museum as the historical domain of white male artists and professed masters of art history, as well as domestic space often considered a woman’s proper province.

The majority of the exhibition comprises works by self-declared feminists and artists of later generations working within the historic framework of feminist art. The work represents widely diverse forms and ideas, suggesting that feminist art is not limited to a specific look or reading.

Among the works on view are Carrie Mae Weems’s *Untitled (Man Smoking/Malcolm X)*, 1990, from her *Kitchen Table* series, which explores human experience from the vantage point of an African American female subject; a “femmeage” painting by Miriam Schapiro titled *Agony in the Garden* that pays homage to Frida Kahlo; a haunting print by Kara Walker of a self-empowered heroine from the American antebellum South; and a bunny sculpture by Nayland Blake that challenges constructions of masculinity. Among the important loans from the Arthur M. Sackler Collections is one of Hannah Wilke’s major sculptures, *Rosebud*, from 1976.

Also included are several works previously on view that will be familiar to Museum visitors, seldom-seen works on paper, and a particular emphasis on recent acquisitions. Among the recent acquisitions on view are the 1979 work *Sweet Smell of Sage Enters the Room* by Ida Applebroog, whose site specific installation *Everything is Fine* was on view in 1992 as a part of the Grand Lobby series; and a 1981 photograph of a

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carved stylized female figure in limestone by Cuban American artist Ana Mendieta from her *Goddess* series taken in Jaruco, Cuba; Tomoko Sawada's portrayal of herself as thirty different candidates for arranged marriages in Japan depicted in a variety of costumes from colorful kimonos and traditional Japanese dress to modestly tasteful, modern outfits. Others include works from Berni Searle's famous *Colour Me* series (1998–2000) that addresses the colonial history of the artist's native Cape Town, South Africa, employing the language of ethnography to display her body as a fetishized, racialized object; and Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's painting *Ghost Dance Dress* from 2000, which is an iconic, spiritual work exploring the challenges of American and Native American cultural coexistence through the central symbol of a Plains woman's dress.

Burning Down the House: Building a Feminist Art Collection is the latest in a series of exhibitions in the main temporary exhibition space of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art that was inaugurated in 2007 with the landmark exhibition *Global Feminisms*, co-curated by Dr. Reilly and feminist scholar Linda Nochlin.

Burning Down the House: Building a Feminist Art Collection is made possible by the Elizabeth A. Sackler Foundation.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$8; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$4. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.