

---

ON VIEW

# WOMEN'S WORK: FEMINIST ART FROM THE COLLECTION

SEPTEMBER 11, 2015–JANUARY 3, 2016

---

## RELATED PROGRAMS

This exhibition focused mainly on student and public engagement with living artists. Charlene Shang Miller, associate educator for academic programs, served as the lead educator and program organizer. Co-organizers included Emma Cantrell, Brown Post-Baccalaureate Fellow in Museum Education; Gina Hall, associate educator for school and family programs; Maggie Newey, associate director for academic programs and public education; and Louise Martindell '02, membership and donor coordinator.

September 10, 2015

**MEMBERS' PRIVATE PREVIEW** with  
Linda Muehlig, curator of the exhibition



ABOVE: Artist Martha Wilson presents a public talk

September 30, 2015

**ARTIST TALK** by Martha Wilson

Wilson is a pioneering feminist artist and founder of Franklin Furnace, New York, NY, an artist-run space that champions the exploration, promotion and preservation of ephemeral and avant-garde art. She traced the trajectory of her career and discussed her current work.

October 29–30, 2015

**GUERRILLA GIRLS RESIDENCY AT SMITH COLLEGE**

With a selection of Guerrilla Girls posters displayed in *Women's Work*, representatives of this anonymous artists' collective were invited to campus for a two-day residency, organized by Emma Cantrell, and coordinated in collaboration

with the Smith student organization Feminists of Smith Unite! Guerrilla Girls members "Frida Kahlo" and "Zubeida Agha," (who take the names of deceased women artists) visited Smith in October and participated in the following programs:

### PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

More than 500 members of the Smith and local community attended a live performance by these famed, feminist artists. At the end of their presentation, the Guerrilla Girls welcomed questions from the audience, generating a lively conversation about inequity in the art world, the history of the 30-year-old collective and activism today.

### LUNCH WITH STUDENTS & ARTISTS

On the second day of the residency, students from the Art Department and Feminists of Smith Unite! joined the Guerrilla Girls for lunch. The two Guerrilla Girls in residence shared stories of art-making and activism, and were interested to hear about the student experience at a women's college.

### "AESTHETICIZE YOUR ACTIVISM"— STUDENT WORKSHOP

On the final afternoon of their residency, the Guerrilla Girls led a workshop entitled "Aestheticize Your Activism." The 30 participants were grouped according to their favored social causes and then got to work developing a Guerrilla Girls-style artistic intervention. The Girls offered words of wisdom and constructive criticism, and by the end of the day several groups walked away with activist projects they hoped to put into action.

### ANONYMOUS STUDENT FEEDBACK FOLLOWING THE ARTIST RESIDENCY

*"I loved that the Guerrilla Girls visit was initiated by Smith student interest! Very cool to know the institution is listening to what the students have to say and putting those ideas into action."*

*"I liked that the Guerrilla Girls were addressing issues that directly impact our world. Everything felt very topical and relevant. I would like to see more connections between social justice and art from future artists."*

## CLASS VISITS

Many Smith and Five College classes visited *Women's Work*. Here's a partial list.

**SWG 204: This Bridge Called My Back: Women of Color Cultural Production**

Faculty: Juliana Hu Pegues

**ART 281: Modern, Postmodern, Contemporary**

Faculty: Frazer Ward

**MUX 118: The History and Critical Issues of Museums**

Faculty: Maggie Newey

**FYS 179: Rebellious Women**

Faculty: Kelly Anderson

**EDC 232: The American Middle School and High School**

Faculty: Carol Berner

**Hampshire College: Globalizing Contemporary Art**

Faculty: Alex Dika Seggermann

**ARH 268: The Artist's Book in the 20th Century**

**Art of the Book**

Faculty: Meredith Broberg

**WOMEN'S WORK RESOURCE AREA AT HILLYER ART LIBRARY**

Fall 2015

In conjunction with the exhibition, Barbara Polowy, Head of Hillyer Art Library, created a research guide and several virtual-browse collections available online.

**TEACHER WORKSHOP: ART HERstory**

November 3, 2015

Grades K–12 art, history and language arts teachers explored how artists in the exhibition addressed feminist issues. Participants took part in guided conversations with guest speakers, curators and museum educators and focused on age-appropriate strategies for engaging students with contemporary art. Curricular materials to support in-gallery and classroom learning were provided.



ABOVE: Visitors viewing artworks by Martha Wilson in *Women's Work*