WEEK 6

Shirin Neshat, *Speechless*, 1996

FEMINISM, IDENTITY & GENDER
FIRST WAVE FEMINISM

- Improve the legal position for women, in particular to gain women the voting right.

- Women should have legal protections and access to education in order to be better citizens.

Late 19th, early 20th centuries
A key difference between first and second-wave feminism is that second-wave feminists no longer believed that men and women were intrinsically different. They believed that culture created the differences between sexes.

Second-wave feminists make a distinction between biological sex (male/female) and the cultural representation of gender roles (masculinity/femininity).
THE MISSION OF FEMINIST ART MOVEMENT

- Gaining Recognition for Women Artists
- Subverting the Established Gender Roles in Art
FEMINIST ART PROGRAM, CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS, 1971

The first college-level art program dedicated for studying the works of women artists and writers.
“I started thinking that women have never had a last supper, but they have had dinner parties. Lots and lots of dinner parties where they facilitated conversation and nourished the people.”
Records the names of 999 notable women, as “forgotten women” (excluded or marginalized in history) in gold writing in the white porcelain floor below the table.
Each of the 39 individual seats pays special homage to historic and legendary women - from a pre-historic goddess to Georgia O’Keefe. Each place setting features an embroidered name, designed in a style historically appropriate to the women it represents and a large ceramic plate.
GUERRILLA GIRLS

Anonymous group of feminist, female artists devoted to fighting sexism and racism within the art world. The group formed in New York City in 1985 with the mission of bringing gender and racial inequality in the fine arts into focus within the greater community. Members are known for the gorilla masks they wear to remain anonymous.
THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING A WOMAN ARTIST:

Working without the pressure of success
Not having to be in shows with men
Having an escape from the art world in your 4 free-lance jobs
Knowing your career might pick up after you’re eighty
Being reassured that whatever kind of art you make it will be labeled feminine
Not being stuck in a tenured teaching position
Seeing your ideas live on in the work of others
Having the opportunity to choose between career and motherhood
Not having to choke on those big cigars or paint in Italian suits
Having more time to work when your mate dumps you for someone younger
Being included in revised versions of art history
Not having to undergo the embarrassment of being called a genius
Getting your picture in the art magazines wearing a gorilla suit

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM GUERRILLA GIRLS conscience of the ART WORLD

www.guerrillagirls.com

Guerrilla Girls, 1989
WOMEN IN AMERICA EARN ONLY 2/3 OF WHAT MEN DO.
WOMEN ARTISTS EARN ONLY 1/3 OF WHAT MEN DO.

A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM GUERRILLA GIRLS CONSCIENCE OF THE ART WORLD
WHEN RACISM & SEXISM ARE NO LONGER FASHIONABLE, WHAT WILL YOUR ART COLLECTION BE WORTH?

The art market won’t bestow mega-buck prices on the work of a few white males forever. For the 17.7 million you just spent on a single Jasper Johns painting, you could have bought at least one work by all of these women and artists of color.

Bernice Abbott  
Anni Albers  
Sofonisba Anguissola  
Diana Arbus  
Vanessa Bell  
Isabel Bishop  
Rosa Bonheur  
Elizabeth Bougereau  
Margaret Bourke-White  
Romaine Brooks  
Julia Margaret Cameron  
Emily Carr  
Rosalba Carriera  
Mary Cassatt  
Constance Marie Charpentier  
Imogen Cunningham  
Sonia Delaunay  
Elaine de Kooning  
Lavinia Fontana  
Meta Warwick Fuller  
Artemisia Gentileschi  
Marguerite Gérard  
Natalia Goncharova  
Kate Greenaway  
Barbara Hepworth  
Eva Hesse  
Hannah Hoch  
Anna Huntingdon  
May Howard Jackson  
Frida Kahlo  
Angelica Kauffmann  
Hilma af Klint  
Kathe Kollwitz  
Lee Krasner  
Dorothy Lange  
Marie Laurencin  
Edmundo Lewis  
Judith Leyster  
Barbara Longhi  
Dora Maar  
Lee Miller  
Lisette Model  
Paula Modersohn-Becker  
Tina Modotti  
Berthe Morisot  
Grandma Moses  
Gabriele Münter  
Alice Neel  
Louise Nevelson  
Georgia O’Keeffe  
Marcel Oppenheim  
Sarah Peale  
Ljubava Popova  
Olga Rozanova  
Nellie Mae Rowe  
Rachel Rysch  
Kay Sage  
Augusta Savage  
Vavara Stepnova  
Florene Stettheimer  
Sophie Taeuber-Arp  
Alma Thomas  
Mariette Robusti Tintoretto  
Suzanne Valadon  
Remedios Varo  
Elizabeth Vigée Le Brun  
Laura Wheeling Waring

Please send $ and comments to:  
Box 1056 Cooper Sta. NY, NY 10276  
Guerrilla Girls

Guerrilla Girls, 1995

Do women have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum?

Less than 5% of the artists in the Modern Art Sections are women, but 85% of the nudes are female.
Strategies employed by the Guerrilla Girls

- Advertisements in Art Magazines and Newspapers—Many actually name names and wag fingers at the most white male-centric curators and institutions
- Secret letters to [sexist] gallery owners and art critics
- Infiltration of Art Hierarchies with ‘spot-on’ stickers
- Postcards
- Posters
If you’re raped, you might as well “relax and enjoy it.” because no one will believe you.

In 1988, for example, of the estimated 185,000 rapes in the U.S., there were only 39,160 arrests, resulting in 15,700 convictions.*


A Public Service Message from GUERRILLA GIRLS 532 LA GUARDIA PL #237, NY 10012

GUERRILLA GIRLS
DEMAND A RETURN TO
TRADITIONAL VALUES
ON ABORTION.

Before the mid-19th century, abortion in the first few months of pregnancy was legal. Even the Catholic Church did not forbid it until 1869.*


A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE FROM GUERRILLA GIRLS 532 LA GUARDIA PL. #237, NY 10012
THE ANATOMICALLY CORRECT OSCAR
HE'S WHITE AND MALE, JUST LIKE THE GUYS WHO WIN!

No woman has ever won an Oscar for Best Film, Directing, Cinematography or Sound.
94% of the acting awards have gone to men.
Only 2% of the acting awards (Leading and Supporting) have ever gone to persons of either African-American, Latino, and Asian-American combined.

A MESSAGE FROM THE
GUERRILLA GIRLS
YOUR CULTURAL CONSCIENCE
guerrillagirls.com

WANNA DIRECT? YOU'RE IN THE WRONG BATHROOM.

In 1989, 2.4% of major films were directed by women. By 1999, that number rose to a whopping 4%.

A MESSAGE FROM THE
GUERRILLA GIRLS
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guerrillagirls.com

THINNER
The earnings of female actors peak from age 20 to 35, then drop permanently after 35.

THINNER
Only 27% of salaries for actors over 40 go to women.

THINNEST
African-American actors get only 13.4% of acting jobs, Latinos 5.6%, Asians 2.1%.

A MESSAGE FROM THE
GUERRILLA GIRLS
YOUR CULTURAL CONSCIENCE
guerrillagirls.com
The visual history of Western art is populated by naked female bodies, arranged in poses that accentuate their accessibility to the unseen and presumably male viewer. Female nude in Western art flatters men by reinforcing their dominance while relegating women to the rule of fantasy object.

Henri Matisse and His Model, 1939
ROLE REVERSAL

Sylvia Sleigh, Turkish Bath, 1973

Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres, Turkish Bath, 1862
Sylvia Sleigh, Philip Golub Reclining, 1971

Diego Velazquez, Rokeby Venus, 1647
UN-ROMANTICIZED BODY
Against Sexual and Objectified Body

- John Berger

Edouard Manet, A Bar at the Folies Bergere, 1863
Laura Mulvey’s seminal essay ‘Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema’ (1975), defined the notion of the male gaze as an integral part of cultural theory and art practice. Her premise was that ‘pleasure in looking’ has been split between active/male and passive/female. And ‘Female Gaze’ sets to subvert these passive/active roles.
Joan Semmel, Touch, 1977

FEMALE GAZE
Joan Semmel, Beach Body, 1985
TWO CRITIQUES OF THE EARLY FEMINIST ART MOVEMENT

1. Intersectionality & Identity Politics
2. Otherness & False Binaries
INTERSECTIONALITY & IDENTITY POLITICS

INTERSECTIONALITY

One’s identity consists of several intersecting factors such as gender, race, social class, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, age, mental disability, physical disability, as well as other forms of identity.
THE WHITE PRIVILEGE OF FEMINISM

"As women ... came together in the feminist movement with the purpose to end domination and exploitation of the white male culture, they failed to remember us."
IDENTITY POLITICS

The political debates that brings people together based on a shared aspect of their cultural characteristics that forms their identity, such as race, class, and religion.

Pepón Osorio, Badge of Honor, 1995
Pepón Osorio, Face to Face, 2004
Shirin Neshat, Turbulent, 1998
“EVERY IMAGE, EVERY WOMAN’S SUBMISSIVE GAZE, SUGGESTS A FAR MORE COMPLEX AND PARADOXICAL REALITY BEHIND THE SURFACE.”
OTHERNESS AND FALSE BINARIES

DECONSTRUCTION THEORY

Developed by Jacques Derrida, deconstruction theory is a critical investigation of the relationship between text and meaning. Derrida suggested that the central concepts and categories of the Western tradition—such as gender, race, identity, religion, etc.—draw on something that runs counter to themselves for their meaning. (MAN/WOMAN, WHITE/BLACK, SUBJECT/OBJECT)
OTHERNESS AND FALSE BINARIES

Deconstructionists believe that constructing identity based on binaries can be manipulated for social and political ends. They argue that “difference” and “otherness” exist only in relationship to something that is assumed to be more complete and stable. In another word, to be “other” is to be considered less than for example the male or less than the individual of white heritage.

The solution is to deconstruct the identity that is based on fixed dualities such as white/not-white or masculine/feminine; and instead define a fluid identity based on a spectrum of interrelated qualities.
Coco Fusco and Guillermo Gomez Peña, Two undiscovered Amerindians visit Madrid, 1992
Yasumasa Morimura, Portrait (Futago), 1988
Yasumasa Morimura, Daughter of Art History: Theatre B, 1998