

The Heckscher Museum of Art

EXHIBITION GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

You Go Girl!

CELEBRATING WOMEN ARTISTS

December 5, 2015 - April 3, 2016



Ce Roser, *Solar Talent*, 1980, Oil on canvas. Heckscher Museum of Art; Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Jens Jebsen. © Ce Roser



Audrey Flack, *Lady Madonna*, 1972, Lithograph on paper with gold leaf. Heckscher Museum of Art; Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Mandel. Courtesy of the Louis K. Meisel Gallery & Audrey Flack.

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CELEBRATING WOMEN ARTISTS

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

Over the past several years, The Heckscher Museum of Art has mounted a series of exhibitions that have explored various aspects of the Permanent Collection. Like most public institutions, the Museum's holdings are predominantly comprised of work by male artists. The cultural environment in the western world may seem gender neutral today, yet female artists throughout history faced numerous challenges not experienced by their male colleagues. The scholarly studies by feminist historians like Linda Nochlin and others of the 1970s explored some of the many obstacles faced by women artists until the late-19th century, most notably the lack of access to formal training, the conventions that prevented them from studying the nude model at a time when depiction of the human figure was crucial to artistic achievement, and a social setting that situated women firmly in the domestic realm as wives, mothers, and guardians of the home.

Although women achieved more freedoms in the early-20th century, most significantly the right to vote, they continued to compete for recognition within a system of galleries, museums, and universities dominated by men. Artists of the 1970s addressed the plight of the female artist and the patriarchy of the art establishment in protests at the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and elsewhere. Howardeena Pindell, Ce Roser, and many others joined together to form numerous activist organizations and cooperative galleries that provided women artists an opportunity to network, exhibit their work, and advance their cause to end discrimination against women in the arts.

Early feminist artists like Miriam Schapiro and Judy Chicago challenged traditional boundaries by incorporating crafts traditionally associated with women in their work, drawing upon the long history of women in the applied arts. Others, such as May Stevens and Audrey Flack, worked within traditional mediums to challenge male authority in overt or subtle ways. Most women, however, created art similar in form and content to that of their male colleagues, as reflected in the majority of work by women artists in the Museum's collection. While artists such as Emma Stebbins, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, Georgia O'Keeffe, Esphyr Slobodkina, Betty Parsons, and Jane Wilson achieved widespread recognition for their artistic and cultural accomplishments, many others, less well known, produced equally significant work that broadens our visual and intellectual experience, as evidenced by the artists in *You Go Girl!*.

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

Guerrilla Girls, *The Advantages of Being a Woman Artist*, 1988.

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EXHIBITION-RELATED VOCABULARY

abstract art: A work of art that does not depict a person, place, or thing as it appears in the real world; abstract art focuses on colors, shapes, lines, and the use of imagination.

documentary photography: A form of photography that chronicles significant and historical events. The photographer attempts to capture truthful, objective, and usually candid images of a particular subject, often people.

homage: A work of art in which an artist shows respect to another by allusion or imitation.

landscape: A work of art depicting an outdoor place.

mood: The feeling or emotion a work of art conveys to the viewer.

negative space: The space not occupied by the subject of a work of art, or the “empty” space (opposite of positive space).

pattern: The regular repetition of colors, lines, shapes, or other elements in a work of art.

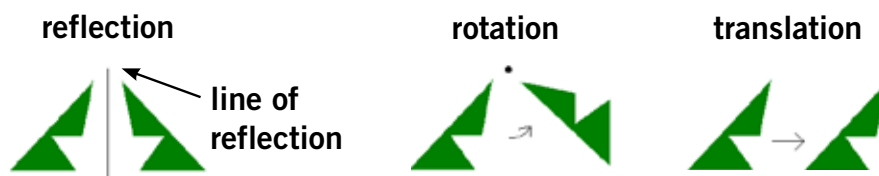
printmaking: A technique in which the artist creates an image on a plate using a variety of processes. This image is then transferred or “printed” on paper, often using a printing press. Printmaking allows for the creation of multiple impressions of the same image.

repetition: The use of the same elements over and over again in a work of art.

sculpture: A three-dimensional work of art made using a technique such as carving, chiseling, molding, welding, or combining found objects.

still life: A work of art depicting an arrangement of objects, typically including fruit and flowers and objects contrasting with these in **texture**, such as bowls and glassware.

symmetry: The balance in size, form, or arrangement of parts on opposite sides of a plane, line, or point. Types of symmetry include **reflection**, **rotation**, and **translation**.



texture: The surface quality or “feel” of an object (ex: roughness, smoothness, softness). Texture may be **implied** (only visually suggesting texture, not to the touch) or **actual**.

value: The lightness or darkness of a color.

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EXHIBITION-RELATED WEBSITES & BOOKS

WEBSITES

American Women Artists

<https://americanwomenartists.org>

Guerrilla Girls

<http://www.guerrillagirls.com/interview>

National Museum of Women in the Arts

<http://nmwa.org>

Georgia O'Keeffe

<http://www.okeeffemuseum.org>

Miriam Schapiro

<http://www.artnews.com/2015/06/23/miriam-schapiro-pioneering-feminist-artist-dies-at-91>

Esphyr Slobodkina

<http://www.slobodkinafoundation.org/about>

May Stevens

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/08/14/may-stevens_n_5649294.html

Jane Wilson

<http://www.tfaoi.com/aa/2aa/2aa395.htm>



Miriam Schapiro

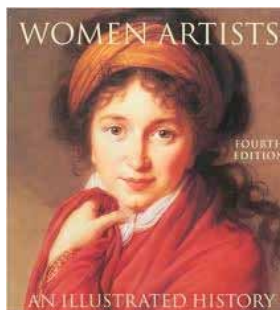
BOOKS

***The Obstacle Race:
The Fortunes of Women Painters and Their Work***
by Germaine Greer

Women Artists, 1550-1950
by Ann Sutherland Harris, Linda Nochlin

Women Artists: An Illustrated History
by Nancy G. Heller

Danger! Women Artists at Work
by Debra N. Mancoff



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Elaine DeKooning, *Black Mountain #6*, 1948, Enamel on paper mounted on canvas.
Heckscher Museum of Art; Museum Purchase.

SELECT IMAGES

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Mary Callery, *Tree*, n.d., Brass. Heckscher Museum of Art; Gift of the Estate of Mary Callery.

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Miriam Schapiro, *Berthe Morisot & Me*, early 1970s, Collage.
Heckscher Museum of Art; Gift of Drs. Constance and Lee Koppelman.

SELECT IMAGES

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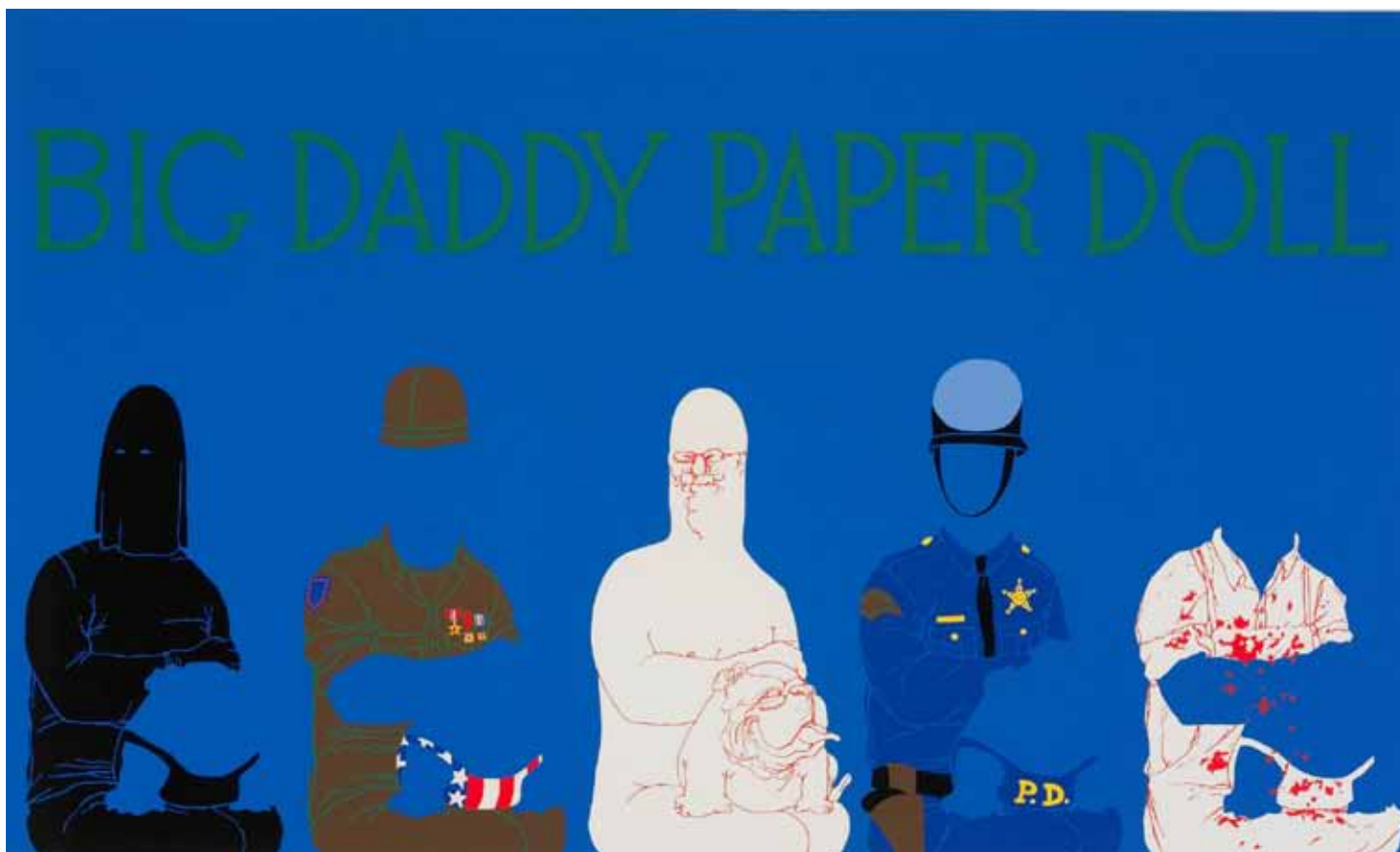


Marguerite Zorach, *Moonlight*, 1910, Oil on panel. Heckscher Museum of Art; Gift of the Baker/Pisano Collection. © The Zorach Collection, LLC

SELECT IMAGES

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May Stevens, *Big Daddy Paper Doll*, 1971, Serigraph on paper.
Heckscher Museum of Art; Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Sol Orlinsky.

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Betty Parsons, *Gulf of Mexico*, c. 1951, Oil and gouache on masonite.
Heckscher Museum of Art; Gift of the Betty Parsons Foundation.

Everything you need @ Heckscher.org

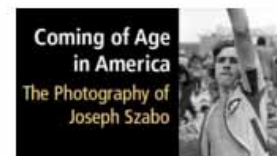
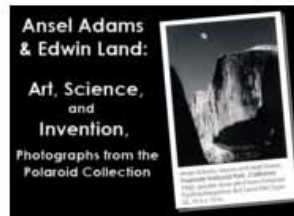
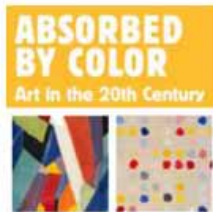
Access ALL of the Museum's EXHIBITION GUIDES for TEACHERS

Get a sneak peek, review after a visit, or use anytime at school!

Guides feature full-color artwork images, exhibition-related websites, and more! They are created on a rolling basis for all* exhibits on view September through June. Teachers registered for K-12 programs are e-mailed the guide(s) that coordinate with the scheduled program as soon as they are developed.

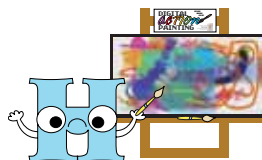
*A guide is not available for *Long Island's Best*.

Newly Redesigned, User-Friendly, Now Available @
heckscher.org/education_exhibition_guides_for_teachers



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Museum of Art**

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At Home Art Activity Ideas!

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