

Through the Flower

A nonprofit Feminist art organization founded by Judy Chicago.

New Mexico Feminist Art Exhibition: *Feminists Under Forty*



Kate Carr's *Pink Hammer* at the *Feminists Under Forty* exhibition.



Helen Colten's *Prayer for Protection* at the *Feminists Under Forty* exhibition.



An enthusiastic audience attended the *Feminists Under Forty* exhibition.

Through the Flower had its largest crowd ever at its headquarters in Belen for the opening of its first juried art exhibition for Feminist art in the state of New Mexico. Numerous Feminist artists throughout New Mexico answered the call for art by artists age 18-39. By focusing on this age group, Through the Flower wished to encourage younger artists to explore feminist themes within their art.

Through the Flower had over forty entries; fourteen artists were chosen for the group show; and two won awards. This group exhibit featured the work of Maureen Burdock, Kate Carr, Andrea Cermanski, Helen Colton, Shara Hannah Finerman, Erin Lynn Forrest, Mikhayla Harrell, Kimberly Hargrove, Nicole Kowalski, Emily Kimball, Ashlie Maxwell, Merce Mitchell, Kelsey Waggaman, and Sheilah A. Wilson.

There were many diverse media represented in the show from the hand-made felt *Cape of Protection* by Merce Mitchell to the sugar and lint sculptures *Sweet Lambs* and *Lint Voodoo Dolls* by Nicole Kowalski.

Over 150 people came to the March 1st opening and the awards presentation. A reporter from KUNM, our local affiliate for National Public Radio (NPR), came to interview the artists. Two of the fourteen exhibiting artists, Maureen Burdock and Sheilah Wilson, were recognized with a \$500 prize each and both were awarded solo exhibitions at Through the Flower and the Belen Hotel Gallery this fall.

Maureen Burdock will present her solo exhibition at Through the Flower's gallery including ink drawings and paintings from her graphic novel *Marta and the Missing* from her series *The F Word Art: Five Feminist Fables for the 21st Century*. *Marta and the Missing*, written in both English and Spanish, tells the story of a woman from Juarez, Mexico who, with the help of a mysterious woman, tracks down men who are kidnapping women and puts an end to the femicide in the border town. Burdock will also be showing the drawings from the series *Mona and the Little Smile*. This novel, written in both English and German, tells the story of a girl in the U.S. who heroically and humorously deals with childhood sexual abuse and transforms herself through drawing.

Sheilah A. Wilson won for her neon entries consisting of statements that provoke with their multiple definitions and entice the viewer with their chemical glow. In her personal statement Wilson has said, "My work is an investigation of the seam that binds experience to language, story to teller and fantasy to history. I mine my own past for jumping off points that will allow me to create alternative history... I see the stories that I recount through photography, text and performance as precariously balanced between the entropic, the absurd and the recognizable." Wilson will be doing a sound based installation in the Belen Hotel Gallery called *Songs Worth Singing* for her solo exhibition.

If you did not get the chance to see the exhibit in person or online, we will be keeping the exhibit up under the archive section on our website www.throughtheflower.org

THE CHICAGO CORNER

After all the traveling in 2007, it was great to stay close to home, my studio and our six cats, who weren't at all happy about our many journeys last year. To them, our being away amounted to abandonment and they punished us with kitty fury, which meant ignoring us for several days until they felt confident that they had inflicted sufficient payment for our extended absences. During the first half of this year, I've been paying a lot of attention to our kitty family while working like a maniac on several projects; a new series of glass pieces and a new suite of lithographs, also, a new book, which is a critique of the present system of university studio art education.

Meanwhile, Through the Flower is progressing on its K-12 *Dinner Party* curriculum, which we plan to launch as a free downloadable Teacher's Guide in early 2009 with a for-sale Resource Packet that will help teachers implement the Guide. In the summer of 2010, we plan to start a Workshop Program which will include a five day K-12 Teachers' Workshop for teachers who want to develop better methods of implementing the curriculum. The first year, this will be taught by Dr. Marilyn Stewart, a renowned curriculum writer and art educator who is the lead writer on our Curriculum Project.

That same summer, I plan to begin offering a workshop in content-based art for university professors in studio art, art history and art education. This will not be an artmaking workshop but rather, an intensive immersion in how to approach the teaching of studio art, art history and art education from a content base, something that—in my opinion—is sorely lacking at most universities. Over the years, many professors have taught courses based upon my pedagogical methods. My workshop will be focused upon how to apply these to different art disciplines.

Holding workshops in Belen is part of Through the Flower's plan to make our headquarters a destination place—a female Marfa. For those who are unfamiliar with the art site that Marfa, Texas has become, allow me to explain that it began with the minimal sculptor Donald Judd who went there in the 1970's to pursue a vision of an art free of commercial constraints. And if anyone thinks that Belen is remote, Marfa is so far away from anything that it makes Belen seem almost like the center of the universe.

Over the years, Marfa has developed into a small art center that attracts people from all over the world. Although other galleries have opened there, the primary attractions are the Judd installations along with those of such art luminaries as Dan Flavin, John Chamberlain, Carl Andre and others. Note that all the names I mentioned are male. Although the Judd *Hundred Boxes* installation is truly inspiring, Marfa is somewhat of a throw-back to the 1960's in that a bevy of women act as what the art writer Lucy Lippard described as the *housekeepers* of men's art both literally and figuratively, i.e. in addition to being the curators, conservators and tour guides, it is primarily women who clean the buildings in which the art is displayed.

Although I enjoyed the recent trip I took there with Donald and his Santa Fe dealers, Sandy Zane and Ned Bennett, I came back even more determined to slowly build a female counterpart here in Belen (albeit more modest), where visitors can learn and be inspired by what women have done and discover how to inflect their lives, their art and their teaching with feminist values.



Feminists Under Forty gathering of artists at Through the Flower with Judy Chicago and Susannah E. Rodee.

my generation wild, they stated that it was important to stand up for what one believes. Apparently, there were other women artists who had not entered the competition because they did not wish to be identified as feminists. All the more reason to celebrate the fourteen talented artists that I selected out of almost forty applicants. Even more exciting, the show elicited an incredible response, bringing many visitors to TTF who had never been to Belen.

So I ask all the friends of Through the Flower to realize that our work is a long way from done. We have to translate what we have accomplished into a path for new generations. However, the only way that we can accomplish these goals is with your ongoing generosity. We have come so far—don't leave us now.

Speaking of what we at Through the Flower are trying to build, it is very important that new and long term supporters renew their membership so that we can ensure that the changes made in the past 25 years will not get reversed. **Please stay with us as there is more to do**, particularly in relation to passing on our values to future generations, which we will be able to accomplish through our Curriculum Project and our Summer Workshop Programs—also, through our exhibitions. As an example, let me describe what happened with our *Feminists Under Forty* show.

Our local NPR station did two programs about the exhibit, one with me and another featuring interviews with some of the young artists. It was thrilling to hear them talk about what it meant to them to have the opportunity to show their work in the context that TTF provided. Even more gratifying were their answers to the question the interviewer asked them about calling themselves feminists.

Instead of responding with the all too familiar “I'm not a feminist but...” retort that drives many women of



Your Voice, Your Power: Susan B. Anthony and the Vote

"I really believe that I shall explode if some of you young women don't wake up...and raise your voice in protest...and work to save us from any more barbaric male governments."

Susan B. Anthony

Through the Flower is exhibiting *Your Voice, Your Power: Susan B. Anthony and the Vote* at its headquarters in Belen to remind us (particularly young women) of the enormous effort and sacrifice that were required to achieve the advancements that present generations of women enjoy and unfortunately often take for granted.

Susan B. Anthony is one of many dedicated women who fought not only for women's right to vote, but the right to be educated; enter any occupation that they chose; to have control over their own bodies; to sign legal papers; to manage their own earnings; and to administer their own property. Susan B. Anthony, in partnership with Elizabeth Cady Stanton revolutionized the political and social conditions of women in the United States and helped to spark an international feminist movement.

Through the Flower has borrowed a suffrage era banner and sash, courtesy of the historic National Women's Party, Sewall-Belmont House and Museum in Washington DC. Also on display is a test plate of Susan B. Anthony from *The Dinner Party* along with individual quilts from the *International Quilting Bee*, which celebrates hundreds of women.

Accompanying the exhibition, Judy Chicago will present a public lecture *Susan B. Anthony: Queen of The Dinner Party* at Through the Flower on September 20th at 2 pm. Call or email for reservations.

Please contact Through the Flower at info@throughtheflower.org or check our website www.throughtheflower.org under the events page for more information.

THROUGH THE FLOWER'S ON-LINE STORE



Support Through the Flower by shopping at our on-line store. We have streamlined the process for ordering to make your shopping experience easier. Through the Flower is your only source of personalized books and posters by Judy Chicago. Proceeds from sales of all products support Through the Flower's education programs. www.throughtheflower.org



Top Image: Detail, runner back, Susan B. Anthony placesetting.

Above Image:
Susan B. Anthony placesetting.

CHARLENE TETERS



Charlene Teters protesting a sporting event at the University of Illinois.

Nobody at the university seemed to think anything of this character, who had been the school mascot since 1926. But Charlene Teters felt that the performance was offensive, believing that it misappropriated indigenous cultural figures and rituals and perpetuated racial and ethnic stereotypes. All by herself, Charlene decided to mount a protest, standing silently outside athletic events with a small sign that said: "American Indians are Human Beings, Not Mascots." At first, she was ridiculed or ignored, but slowly a movement gathered around her that eventually forced the university to abandon its use of "Chief Illiniwek," but not without considerable controversy.

Some people may not understand why Charlene was so incensed. Apart from her concern for her children's reaction, perhaps it would help to know that even though the stated intent of this character was to celebrate the Native American heritage of the state of Illinois, it was not based on an actual Indian chief; the costume was not authentic but rather, derived from Lakota (Sioux) regalia; and many of the dance steps were far from traditional. Moreover, the Illiniwek people had been forcibly removed during the 1818-1833 Indian removal and relocation. As one Indian leader commented: "I don't know what the reason was for the University to create "Chief Illiniwek." I don't think it was to honor us because they ran our butts out of Illinois".



Charlene Teters speaking at Through the Flower.

As part of our commitment to foster understanding of Feminist art, Through the Flower has asked the most prominent contributors to the Feminist art movement in New Mexico to present public lectures and discuss how they would like to see their art recognized in art history. In 2007, Through the Flower presented artists May Stevens and Harmony Hammond and art critic Lucy Lippard, and the attendance and feedback has been very gratifying. Through the Flower is continuing this programming and presented a free public lecture by Charlene Teters and honored her work on May 17th.

Imagine a young Indian woman entering graduate school at the University of Illinois in the college town of Champaign-Urbana. She didn't know many other students when she arrived nor were there many other Native American students. She decided to take her two children to a basketball game where they saw a performance of a pseudo-Indian dance by a non-Indian student who was portraying a character named "Chief Illiniwek." The children became very confused and upset at the sight of a white person pretending to be a Native American.



Charlene Teters and Judy Chicago.

Charlene went on to earn her Masters in Fine Arts while continuing to challenge the inappropriate use of American Indian images, culture and spiritual life. A founding Board Member of the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and Media, she now teaches at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe. Since 2006, she has also served as Hugh O. LaBounty Endowed Chair of Interdisciplinary Knowledge at the California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California.

Charlene also expresses her views through her art, which she discussed at Through the Flower, and received a print of Judy Chicago's *Through the Flower* for her contributions to activism in art. As her art demonstrates—in addition to sports mascots—there are many more areas in which racial injustice still exists for Native Americans, reflecting a deeper social and national problem.



THROUGH THE FLOWER'S CULTURAL CORRIDOR

Through the Flower is pleased to announce that we have just updated the New Mexico Women's Cultural Corridor brochure. This self guided map leads travelers through Belen, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Abiqui and Taos in search of the achievements of Judy Chicago, Mabel Dodge Luhan, Agnes Martin, Maria Martinez, Georgia O'Keeffe and Millicent Rogers.

Find your new copy of the Cultural Corridor Map at your local brochure rack or download at: <http://www.throughtheflower.org/page.php?p=30&n=1>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – Local, National and International

February 16–November 30, 2008

Votes for Women

Herstory Gallery at

Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art

Brooklyn Museum, NY

www.brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa/

May 17–June 17, 2008

Judy Chicago group exhibition

Penge

Wonderland Art Space

Copenhagen, Denmark

www.wonderlandonline.dk

May 20–June 28, 2008

Judy Chicago group exhibition

Pink and Bent: The Art of Queer Women

Leslie Lohman Gallery

New York, NY

www.leslielohman.org

June 6–August 2, 2008

Donald Woodman solo exhibition

Opening reception June 21, 5-7 pm

The Selling of the West

Zane Bennett Contemporary

Santa Fe, NM

www.zanebennettgallery.com

www.DonaldWoodman.com

June 23–October 3, 2008

Through the Flower exhibition

Your Voice, Your Power: Susan B. Anthony and the Vote

Through the Flower Gallery

Belen, NM

www.throughtheflower.org

June 23 –October 3, 2008

Belen Hotel Gallery exhibition

Selected Works by Judy Chicago and Donald Woodman

Belen Hotel Gallery

Belen, NM

www.throughtheflower.org

August 20, 2008, 8:00 pm

Judy Chicago lecture

From China Painting to Glass Painting: An Overview

Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill

Wellfleet Congregational Church (lecture location)

Truro, MA

www.castlehill.org

September 20, 2008 2:00 pm

Judy Chicago lecture

*Susan B. Anthony: Queen of **The Dinner Party***

Through the Flower

Belen, NM

www.throughtheflower.org

September 29, 2008

Judy Chicago Tapestries included in

Opening Exhibition

Museum of Arts and Design

New location at 2 Columbus Circle

New York, NY

www.madmuseum.org

Fall 2008

Judy Chicago group exhibition

Diana and Actaeon–The Forbidden Sight of Nudity

Stiftung Museum Kunst Palast

Dusseldorf, Germany

www.museum-kunst-palast.de

October 18, 2008 2: 00 pm

Through the Flower exhibition

Opening and gallery talk

Solo exhibitions by Maureen Burdock and Sheilah

Wilson winners of the *Feminists Under Forty* juried com-

petition organized by Through the Flower and juried by

Judy Chicago.

Maureen Burdock will present her graphic novels “Marta

and the Missing” and “Mona and the Little Smile” at Through

the Flower. Sheilah Wilson will present the site specific instal-

lation “Songs Worth Singing” at the Belen Hotel Gallery.

Through the Flower

Belen, NM

www.throughtheflower.org

October 20–November 4, 2008

Judy Chicago group exhibition

Song of Songs

New Hall, University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

www.newhall.cam.ac.uk

October 29, 2008

Judy Chicago lecture

A Conversation with Judy Chicago

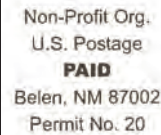
Vancouver Art Gallery

Time and details to be announced

Please check our website under “Events” for updates and further information: www.throughtheflower.org



Programs at Through the Flower are made possible in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER SUPPORT THROUGH THE FLOWER

A nonprofit Feminist art organization founded by Judy Chicago.

www.throughtheflower.org 505-864-4080 info@throughtheflower.com

THROUGH THE FLOWER'S NEW DIRECTIVE

Through the Flower has been implementing a fresh new directive, incorporating Feminist art as a vehicle for education and social change. The permanent housing of *The Dinner Party* at the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum has been a huge victory in the ongoing battle against the erasure of women's achievements. Considering that it took 30 years to get *The Dinner Party* housed and 88 years since the passing of the Nineteenth Amendment to achieve the first viable female candidate in a US Presidential Primary Election, there is still much work that needs to be done.

To continue our effort to educate new generations about women's achievements Through the Flower will launch its K-12 *Dinner Party* Curriculum in early 2009. Our goal is to bring women's history along with an understanding of feminism and Feminist art to schools all over the country. We are committed to making sure that the changes of the last 25 years will not be reversed.

We are working hard to nurture a new generation of Feminist artists who can build upon rather than repeat the past. One of Through the Flower's primary goals is breaking the historic cycle in which one generation of women does not know what women before them accomplished.

We must continue to support the power of art. Help us move into the future with your contribution.

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Judy Chicago

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PHOTOGRAPHER: Donald Woodman

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Straitjacket Design

MISSION STATEMENT:

Through the Flower is a non-profit Feminist art organization founded by Judy Chicago in 1978. Our mission is to educate a broad public about the importance of art and its power in countering the erasure of women's achievements.

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January 1990 - May 2008

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January 1990 - May 2008

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