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### Intern Report - Charlotte Hicks

Due to me being fortunate enough two years ago to meet both Judy and Donald at the Tom Thomson Gallery in Canada, I applied for this internship after having a short but engaging conversation with Judy, who explained that she ran an internship program at her studios in Belen, New Mexico.

I first became aware of Judy Chicago and her work in my first year of university, when my lecturer was outlining artists whose work matched thematically with the possible topics for our upcoming essay. Chicago was one of them, and having only been recommended predominantly male artists to look at during high school for my art projects, it came as a refreshing change to finally be talking about women artists who were brave enough to make the first step to changing the persistent male dominance in the art world (and greater society), despite the fight of previous generations of women, whose struggle and progress have since been forgotten.

Naturally, I decided to write about Judy and her work 'The Dinner Party', alongside Linda Nochlin and Martha Rosler, as I was immediately captivated by this monumental installation piece that highlights the names of hundreds of women from history that would otherwise be forgotten; women that worked tirelessly to emphasize the importance of women's experience and slowly began to eradicate the disparities between men and women, only to be left out of the history books and consequently out of our minds. After also reading Chicago's book, 'Through the Flower', I began to understand more and more what being a woman in the art world means, and that my experiences as a woman, which are vastly different from the male artists and lecturers around me, meant that my work would inevitably be very different to theirs and didn't have to appeal to my male tutor's tastes.

Being hugely moved by her writing and inspired by her original, engaging artworks, I wanted to experience working with her in her studios and ended up flying from London to New Mexico to intern. During my 5 week internship, I have been collating all the information from a handful of Judy's lectures that she has undertaken across the world on various topics to send to the National Museum of Women in the Arts for their archives. Although there was a lot to do and at times I thought too much for me to finish in 5 weeks, it was interesting to work solidly on one project during the time I was here and also nice that Judy and the gallery manager Megan trusted me to undertake this task which was important to do accurately as it was going into the museums archives. As well as this, I have learnt a lot about what goes on behind the scenes, and the sheer work that goes into organizing exhibitions, couriers, interviews and dealing with the galleries that exhibit her work or represent Judy as an artist.

It was great to get to know all the staff working in the offices as well as Judy and Donald, especially during the staff dinner and over drinks in the back yard; everyone was kind and helpful, and not only gave me advice on the work that I was doing here but also on the possible paths that I may potentially take after I finish art school, and what it is like to work in artistic institutions or as an artist. I have been so fortunate to work here and I am so grateful to Judy Chicago for allowing me this incredible opportunity to intern for her.