

## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Mary Jane Dean  
Communications Manager  
[mjidean@museumsc.org](mailto:mjidean@museumsc.org)  
(707) 579-1500 x 101  
*Images below*



### **The Museum of Sonoma County Announces the Exhibition *Agency: Feminist Art and Power***

**January 22, 2022 – June 5, 2022**

Curated by: Karen M. Gutfreund

Presented in partnership with The Feminist Art Project

**(SANTA ROSA, CA)** - November 4, 2021 – *Agency: Feminist Art and Power*, organized in partnership with the Feminist Art Project and curated by Karen M. Gutfreund, will be presented in the Museum of Sonoma County (MSC) contemporary galleries from January 22 – June 5, 2022.

*Agency: Feminist Art and Power* brings together the work of womxn artists who represent different cultural backgrounds, generations, geographic locations, LGBTQ and gender identities, who explore the concept of Agency (the capacity to act or exert one's own power; to act independently and to make free choices). These extraordinary artists will present work that examines empowerment, identity, gender roles, aging, gender fluidity, reproductive choice, women and work, violence, and more. The art will challenge our understanding of what shapes us as individuals and communities. Through this exhibition and the accompanying public and educational programs, MSC will provide multiple opportunities for the public to gain access to cutting edge work and ideas of womxn artists who are exploring urgent social topics.

Included in the exhibition will be artists such as: Rosemary Meza-DesPlas, who depicts anger as a useful tool against oppression, personal and institutional, and an unwillingness to remain silent; Ceciley Blanchard's photographs address Black women's empowerment using Maya Angelou's poem "And Still I Rise" as inspiration towards liberation; Ria Brodell, a non-binary trans artist, addresses society's strictly prescribed gender roles and the queer experience; Mickalene Thomas' work explores claiming authority, the "gaze", and the power in Black female beauty; Martha Wilson uses self-portraits to create witty observations on beauty and aging; Sawyer Rose's work uses data visualization to explore women's work inequities; Jaune Quick-to-See Smith creates work that addresses current issues facing Native Americans such as the destruction of the environment, and governmental oppression of native cultures; Sonya Kelliher-Combs, an Alaskan Native American, addresses sexual abuse and rape

against women, and the struggle for self-definition and identity; Joan Semmel's large nude paintings are portrayals of sexual empowerment from a woman's point of view; Winnie van der Rijn's shredded men's work shirts are an examination and deconstruction of patriarchal power.

MSC will publish a full color catalog in print and online formats, and produce virtual tours and docent guided tours on site for visitors including seniors and visitors with disabilities. Gallery talks and panels will provide opportunities for discussions focused on themes from *Agency*, and dialogs between artists and audience will be encouraged. *Feminists are Funny*, an evening of comedic dialog with the artists and their work, is planned. Talks and lectures will also be recorded and posted, providing access for the broader public. *Agency: Feminist Art and Power* is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

**ARTIST LIST:** Shonagh Adelman, Dotty Attie, Ceciley Blanchard, Ria Brodell, Judy Chicago, Cat Del Buono, Jessie Edelstein, Sally Edelstein, Alyssa Eustaquio, Vanessa Filley, Judy Gelles, Guerrilla Girls, Rozanne Hermelyn Di Silvestro, Sonya Kelliher-Combs, Holly Ballard Martz, Kristine Mays, Rosemary Meza-DesPlas, Delilah Montoya, Priscilla Otani, Lucky Rapp, Jenny Reinhardt, Sawyer Rose, Joan Semmel, Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, Mickalene Thomas, Winnie van der Rijn, Margi Weir, Martha Wilson, and Nancy Youdelman.

### [About the Museum of Sonoma County](#)

Located in Downtown Santa Rosa on Seventh Street between A and B Streets, the Museum of Sonoma County (MSC) presents exhibitions of modern and contemporary art and local and regional history. MSC is open year-round with changing exhibitions, public programs, school tours, and education programs. MSC preserves and manages a regional art and history collection of over eighteen thousand objects, the region's largest object documentation of Sonoma County's history and culture.

### **Mission**

The Museum of Sonoma County (MSC) engages and inspires diverse populations of our region and beyond through art and history exhibitions, access to collections, and public programs that are inclusive, educational, and relevant to local, state, and national audiences.

### **Smithsonian Affiliate**

MSC has been a Smithsonian Affiliate since 2009. Smithsonian Affiliations establishes long-term partnerships with museums, education, and cultural organizations to facilitate the loan of Smithsonian artifacts and traveling exhibitions, as well as to develop innovative educational collaborations locally and nationally. Created in 1996 by an act of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, the program is overseen by the Smithsonian's Assistant Secretary for Education and Access and is one of the pillars of the Institution's national outreach efforts. There are more than 200 Smithsonian Affiliates in nearly every state, Puerto Rico and Panama. Affiliates represent the diversity of America's museum

community—size, location and subject—and serve all audiences. More than 8,000 Smithsonian artifacts have been displayed at Affiliate locations for the past 20 years.

### **Museum of Sonoma County**

425 Seventh Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
707-579-1500  
[www.museumsc.org](http://www.museumsc.org)

### **Admission**

Adults: \$10.00  
Students and Seniors: \$7.00  
Museum Members: FREE  
Children 12 and under: FREE

### **Museum Hours**

Open Wednesday through Sunday  
11:00am-5:00pm

Closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, President's Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas; please visit our website for additional closures.

Images ([click here](#) to view and download)



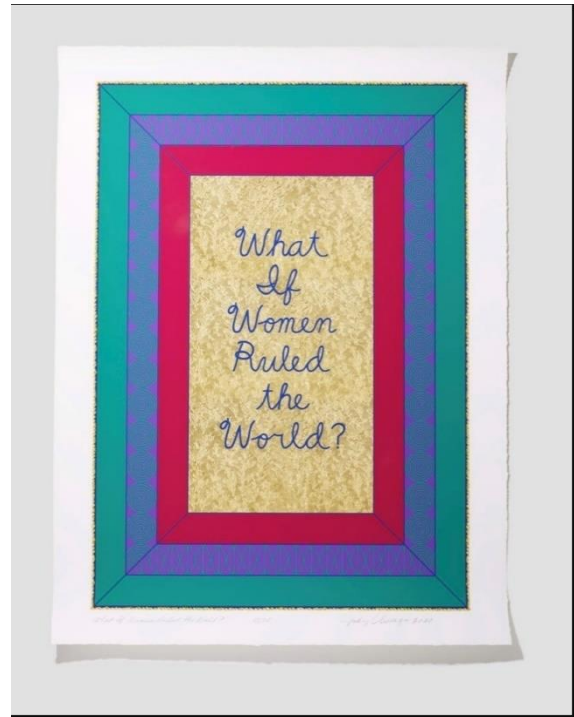
Alyssa Eustaquio, *Keeping FEMINISM Fresh*, 2013, Mint chewing gum, paper, plastic sleeve and Wrigley's foil chewing gum wrappers, 3 x 2.5 x .5 inches



Vanessa Filley, *#MeToo*, 2018, Archival pigment print on cotton rag paper, 30 x 20 inches each



Mickalene Thomas, *All She Wants to Do is Dance (Fran)*, 2009, Rhinestones, acrylic on enamel wood panel, 120 x 95.75 inches



Judy Chicago, *What if Women Ruled the World*, edition 65/75, 2020, Archival pigment print on paper, 36 x 27 inches paper, 38.5 x 29.5 inches framed

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