

YERBA BUENA  
CENTER FOR  
THE ARTS

# CHANGING THE RATIO

FEMALE ARTISTS  
AT YBCA



# CHANGING THE RATIO: FEMALE ARTISTS AT YBCA

YBCA believes that culture is an essential catalyst for change. But to create the sort of change we want to see in the world, arts institutions must bring more underrepresented voices into the cultural conversation.

In 2014, it was estimated that less than 15% of US gallery exhibitions were dedicated to female artists. To YBCA, that ratio is unacceptable. When arts institutions make so little space for female artists, they reflect back an inaccurate and singular view of the world we live in.

Over the next three years (2017-2019), YBCA will focus its main galleries on monographic, retrospective exhibitions of some of the most important female artists of our time. These women are changemakers who have led the way in terms of using art to shift culture. From prescient feminist Lynn Hershman Leeson, followed by Cuban artist-activist Tania Bruguera and the female-led collective Futurefarmers, to social practitioners Suzanne Lacy and Andrea Bowers, YBCA will focus on women who are creating new civic imaginaries and redefining what it means to work in the public realm.

All five exhibitions feature new works and new publications. *Lynn Hershman Leeson: Civic Radar* includes the multimedia installation, *The Infinity Engine 2014-17*, which was prototyped during YBCA's 2013 exhibition *Dissident Futures*. The accompanying 383-page illustrated exhibition catalogue was published by the organizing institution. The other four exhibitions, curated or co-curated by YBCA's Director of Visual Arts Lucía Sanromán, include new commissions by each artist/collective. YBCA is also publishing a set of illustrated exhibition catalogues, of 150 to 200 pages each, for the exhibition series.

## PROJECTS

*Lynn Hershman Leeson: Civic Radar* (February 10–May 21, 2017), organized by ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, Germany, is the only presentation in the Americas of a retrospective that provides an overview of this acclaimed Bay Area artist's revolutionary career from the 1960s to the present day. A pioneer of performance and conceptual art, Lynn Hershman Leeson has continually examined our relationship to technology. Her work reflects a fascination with the construction of identity and the use of media and technology as tools for empowerment against censorship and repression. Hershman Leeson has been, and continues to be, a strong voice in the feminist movement.



*Reach* from the series *Phantom Limb*, 1986. Courtesy Lynn Hershman Leeson represented by Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco; Waldburger Wouters Gallery, Brussels; Bridget Donahue Gallery, New York City; Vilma Gold Gallery, London.

*Tania Bruguera: Talking to Power/ Hablándole al Poder* (June 16–October 29, 2017), is organized by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and will tour internationally. Bruguera's long-term projects research and perform the ways in which art can be applied to collective everyday life. Her work focuses on the transformation of social affect into political effectiveness. This survey exhibition presents Bruguera's artworks for the public sphere created between 1985 and 2017, all of which position art as a useful resource for social change. The concept of the exhibition focuses on the idea of "updating" her previous work, in order to respond to current urgencies. As part of the exhibition, a new commissioned project *Escuela de Arte Útil* or School of Useful Art will be presented.



Tania Bruguera during a working session of the Hannah Arendt International Institute of Artivism (INSTAR), Havana, May, 2015. Photo: Pablo Leon de La Barra. Courtesy Studio Bruguera.

*Futurefarmers: A Survey in Seed-Time* (working title) (April 27–September 9, 2018) is organized by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Since 1995 the Bay Area-based collective Futurefarmers has been making works that address widespread ecological concerns, focusing on offering alternatives to an industrialized and globalized food production system. Led by Amy Franceschini and Michael Swaine, the internationally known

art collaborative includes farmers, scientists, designers, and artists who come together to produce participatory sculptural art projects that trigger engagement with specific communities. *A Survey in Seed-Time* will offer the first retrospective of Futurefarmers' works from the collective's inception to 2018, exploring the coexistence of humans and nature and the creation of sustainable food relationships and ecologies, including groundbreaking exhibition formats both in the galleries and in public locations.

*Suzanne Lacy: A Retrospective* (working title) (April 20–August 3, 2019), co-organized and co-curated with San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, is the first-ever full examination of Suzanne Lacy's work. For more than forty years, Lacy's genre-defying art has taken the forms of performance, sculpture and video installations, photography and public or community engagement. Her work centers on the organization of public encounters that combine intensive community dialogue and collaborative choreography. The exhibition will be jointly presented at both institutions with a specific focus on Oakland Projects (1989–2001) at YBCA.

*Andrea Bowers: Looking Back to Look Forward* (working title) Fall 2019, is the first major survey exhibition of this extraordinary Los Angeles-based artist and organized by Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. With a practice that consciously integrates tactics from political activism and organizing, forming intersectional alliances with specific organizations and activists. Her recent work has been on behalf of the organization Food & Water Watch and the indigenous rights activists that have come together around water protection in the Dakota Access Pipeline struggles. An artist known for detailed drawings and sculptural installations, Bowers defines her own object production as a form labor placed in service of urgent social causes. Her exhibition at YBCA will bring together key artworks and series of works from collections around the world, and will also involve the creation of a major new public artwork created in collaboration with Southern Exposure.

## **CIRCLE OF ADVISORS**

The Changing the Ratio Circle of Advisors is a group of generous individuals who are instigating and inspiring a more equitable art world through their financial support.

Advisors have the opportunity to participate in the creative evolution of the series and receive recognition as exhibition underwriters through 2019.

## **BE INSPIRED**

- Access to curatorial conversations throughout the series
- Invitations to intimate gatherings with the artists
- Private tours of each exhibition

## **BE BOLD**

- Recognition as a Changing the Ratio underwriter in all credit lines and promotional materials

## **BE A CATALYST**

- Invitation to all Opening Night Festivities
- Complimentary gallery admission
- Additional guests passes for each exhibition

## **BE A CHANGEMAKER**

Participation in the Changing the Ratio Circle of Advisors begins with a contribution of \$10,000 or more and may be paid through installments over three years.

To learn more and to join Changing the Ratio, please contact Maggie R. Pico at 415 321 8684 or by email at [mpico@ybca.org](mailto:mpico@ybca.org).

Photo by Marisa Darabi



**I/We want to join Changing the Ratio Circle of Advisors by making the following gift:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10,000

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25,000

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50,000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) as you like to be acknowledged: \_\_\_\_\_

**One-Time Gift**

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to YBCA.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please charge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card account.

Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Multi-Year Pledge**

Total pledge amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of installments: \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3

Equal installments per year: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

First installment date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My first installment is enclosed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pay my first pledge installment on the first installment date listed above.

Please return to YBCA, 701 Mission St. San Francisco, CA 94103. For more information or to a make a contribution by phone, please contact Maggie R. Pico at 415 321 8684 or mpico@ybca.org.

**Thank you for your gift to YBCA.**

## **YBCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **OFFICERS**

Rekha Patel, *Chairperson*  
Erik Mayo, *Treasurer*  
Berit Ashla, *Secretary*  
Diana Cohn, *Member at Large*

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Peter Bransten  
Jeff Chang  
Amy Eliot  
Elna Hall  
Meklit Hadero  
Kevin King  
D.J. Kurtze  
Jocelyn Lamm Startz  
Laura Livoti  
Sabrina Riddle  
Catalina Ruiz-Healy  
Paul Ryder  
Diane Sanchez  
Vicki Shipkowitz  
Meg Spriggs  
Marc Vogl  
Vinitha Watson  
Karen Wickre  
Zak Williams  
Johann Zimmern

### **EMERITUS**

Helen Sause

**WE GENERATE  
CULTURE THAT  
MOVES PEOPLE**

**YERBA BUENA  
CENTER FOR  
THE ARTS**

701 MISSION ST  
SAN FRANCISCO  
CA 94103  
YBCA.ORG