

Week 11: PROCESS, FEMINISM, IDENTITY...END OF THE MAINSTREAM?

Lecture 21 – Women Buck the Canon

key decade: 1970s
terms: Pattern and Decoration,
Feminism, “Performatism”

I. A climate of protest (Women question and seize the Phallus)

- A) Lynda Benglis image
- B) Louise Bourgeois: ‘40s vs. ‘68 vs. ‘80s (via Mapplethorpe), into the ‘00s (d. ‘10, age 98)

II. Reclaiming Women’s art(s)

- A) the *Her-itage* (Kahlo, O’Keeffe)
- B) Pattern and Decoration: ‘70s New York (also see Kozloff’s Harvard Square T)
 - 1. Miriam Schapiro
 - 2. Joyce Kozloff
 - 3. Robert Kushner (the issue of men in feminism)
- C) Womanhouse – founded 1971 in Los Angeles
 - 1. Started by teachers Schapiro and Judy Chicago (née Cohen)
 - 2. Collaborators/ students: Bachenheimer, Brody, LeCoq, Mitchell, Wilding, + more
 - 3. Installation, performance
- D) Chicago’s Dinner Party, “central core” imagery, questions of labor

III. The Goddess thing - Painting, Installation, Performance

- A) painting: Nancy Spero, Sylvia Sleigh
- B) performance (sometimes also installation):
 - 1. Recall: Tanaka (Gutai, ‘56), Yoko Ono, Shigeko Kubota, Carolee Schneemann (all ‘64!), Valie Export (‘69), Bourgeois (installation ‘74, performance ‘78)
 - 2. Rachel Rosenthal, 1970s performances (now is artist/ drama therapist)
 - 3. Ana Mendieta, 1980s photo/performances

IV. The Angry/ Funny Woman thing – Feminist Performance Art

- A) Essentialism (1960s, but was it so?) vs. the constructed subject of sex (1980s)
- B) Performing / contesting gendered roles in the 70s
 - 1) Mierle Ukeles “Maintenance Art Manifesto” 1969
 - 2) Eleanor Antin, “Carving: A traditional sculpture,” 1972
 - 3) Hannah Wilke “Starification Series” 1974, she dubs “performatism”
 - 4) Laurie Anderson “Nikon: Object/ Objection/ Objectivity” 1973

V. ‘90s Feminism – or “post” feminism ?

- A) Continuities/ transformations: Janine Antoni, Rachel Lachowicz
- B) New stagings: Cindy Sherman
- C) Disruptions: Vanessa Beecroft

SELECTED IMAGES — *corrected!*

Bourgeois, Fillette 1969

Bourgeois, Destruction of the Father, 1974 (cf. Banquet, a Fashion Show of Body Parts, 1978)

Schapiro, Fan of Spring, 1979 (stretched fabric collage)

Kozloff, New England Decorative Art 1979 (tile mural in Harvard Square T)

Chicago, Rainbow Picket, 1965

Chicago, Atmosphere at Santa Barbara Beach 1969

Chicago, Female Rejection Drawing, 1974

Womanhouse 1971/72:

Rooms: Dining Room (Bachenheimer, Brody, LeCoq, Mitchell, Schapiro, Wilding)

Menstruation Bathroom (Chicago)

Womb Room (Wilding)

Performances: Ablutions (Chicago?)

Cock and Cunt Play (Wilding and Lester)

Chicago, Dinner Party 1973-79 (installation of table, cloth table settings, tiled platform, ceramic plates, glasses)

Spero, Codex Artaud, 1976 (printing, collage on paper)

Mendieta, Siluetas Series 1978 (gunpowder, earth, ...body, tree, mud)

Ukeles, Maintenance Art performance series, 1969-77

Wilke, S.O.S.: Starification Object Series, 1974-75

Wilke, Hannah Wilke Through the Large Glass, 1976

Anderson, Fully Automated Nikon: Object, Objection, Objectivity, 1974

later:

Antoni, Loving Care ("I soaked my hair in dye and mopped the floor with it"), 1993

Antoni, Chocolate Gnaw/ Lard Gnaw 1992

Lachowicz, Sarah, 1992 (lipstick in propped slabs)

Sherman, Film Stills series, 1978

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