



# !WOMEN ART REVOLUTION (!W.A.R.)

Directed by Lynn Hershman Leeson

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**A ZEITGEIST FILMS RELEASE**

# **!WOMEN ART REVOLUTION (!W.A.R.)**

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

An entertaining and revelatory “secret history” of Feminist Art, *!Women Art Revolution* deftly illuminates this under-explored movement through conversations, observations, archival footage and works of visionary artists, historians, curators and critics. Starting from its roots in 1960s antiwar and civil rights protests, the film details major developments in women’s art through the 1970s and explores how the tenacity and courage of these pioneering artists resulted in what is now widely regarded as the most significant art movement of the late 20th century.

For more than forty years, filmmaker and artist Lynn Hershman Leeson (*Teknolust, Strange Culture*) has collected a plethora of interviews with her contemporaries—and shaped them into an intimate portrayal of their fight to break down barriers facing women both in the art world and society at large. With a rousing score by Sleater-Kinney’s Carrie Brownstein, *!W.A.R.* features Miranda July, The Guerilla Girls, Yvonne Rainer, Judy Chicago, Marina Abramovic, Yoko Ono, Cindy Sherman, Barbara Kruger, B. Ruby Rich, Ingrid Sischy, Carolee Schneemann, Miriam Schapiro, Marcia Tucker and countless other groundbreaking figures.

# **!WOMEN ART REVOLUTION (!W.A.R.)**

## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

Artist and filmmaker Lynn Hershman Leeson's documentary is more than four decades in the making. *!Women Art Revolution (!W.A.R.)* draws from hundreds of hours of in-the-moment interviews with her contemporaries—visionary artists, historians, curators and critics—to present an intimate portrayal of their fight to break down barriers facing women both in the art world and society at large. The film features an original score composed by Carrie Brownstein, formerly of the band Sleater-Kinney. In conjunction with the film, legendary artist Spain has illustrated a 100-page graphic novel depicting selected highlights of the *!WAR* history; the graphic novel includes a 57-page curriculum guide to accompany the film.

In the 1960s, the Feminist Art Movement emerged to politicize female artists and challenge complexities of gender, race, class and sexuality. Through interviews with her colleagues, Hershman Leeson—a pioneering, award-winning multimedia artist herself—traces the history of the movement from its relationship to the anti-war and civil rights forces of the 1960s, through its groundbreaking contributions to women's art of the 1970s, to the emergence of The Guerilla Girls, who became the conscience of the art world and held galleries and museums accountable for discrimination. Ultimately, Hershman Leeson and her collaborators would become part of what many historians now claim is the most significant art movement of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Hershman Leeson says of the film, "In 1966, I borrowed a camera, figured out how to use it and shot people coming through my living room in Berkeley. Then I forgot about all that footage and it was stored in boxes in my studio until I found it in 2004. I felt it had become even more relevant and it was a personal imperative that I complete the project! I felt a tremendous responsibility to find the story inside that raw footage and to honor the women who struggled to invent themselves and who introduced the concepts of social protest, collaboration and public art that addressed directly the political imperatives of social justice and civil rights. This film took 42 years and it needed all that time to find the optimistic and uncompromising legacy."

*!Women Art Revolution* is written, directed, produced and edited by Lynn Hershman Leeson. The film is executive produced by Sarah Peter, produced by Kyle Stephan and Alexandra Chowanec and co-produced by Carla Sacks. *!Women Art Revolution* is a Hotwire Production in association with Chicken and Egg Pictures, Creative Capital and Impact Partners.

# **!WOMEN ART REVOLUTION (!W.A.R.)**

## **THE FILMMAKERS**

### **LYNN HERSHMAN LEESON      Writer, Director, Producer and Editor**

Lynn Hershman Leeson pioneered site-specific, performance and interactive media. Most recently, she was honored by the Digital Art Museum in Berlin with the d.velop digital art award (d.daa), the most distinguished honor for lifetime achievement in the field of new media. Her other honors include the prestigious Golden Nica Prix Ars Electronica, the ZKM/Seimens Media Arts Award and, as a Sundance Screenwriter Fellow, she was honored with the Flintridge Foundation Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts. She has also received The Alfred P. Sloan Film Prize for writing and directing *Teknolust*; and in 2006, the International Association of Digital Arts award for “innovative storytelling”; the Zero One Prize for “Media that Matters”; and a Creative Capital Grant for her documentary *!Women Art Revolution*. In 2009, she became a Guggenheim Foundation Fellow and received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Siggraph. Hershman Leeson wrote, directed and produced the feature films *Teknolust*, *Conceiving Ada* and *Strange Culture* (all starring Oscar-winner ), in addition to 14 other films and shorts. Her films have been shown at the Sundance Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival and Berlin International Film Festival; and were all internationally distributed. Her artwork is held in numerous collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in (New York), The National Gallery of Canada, DG Bank (Frankfurt) and The Walker Art Center (Minneapolis). She has published extensively, is the Chair of the Film Department at the San Francisco Art Institute and Emeritus Professor at the University of California. Hershman Leeson is represented by Paule Anglim Gallery in San Francisco and Bitforms Gallery in New York.

### **SARAH PETER                      Executive Producer**

Sarah Peter is an artist whose work is in many collections worldwide. She has been an active philanthropist for many years, focused primarily on mental health and women's issues, and has given critical support to the Women's Institute at Omega, The Museum of Modern Art and other cultural institutions.

# **!WOMEN ART REVOLUTION (!W.A.R.)**

## **THE FILMMAKERS (cont.)**

### **KYLE STEPHAN                      Producer**

Kyle Stephan is a film producer, fundraising consultant, and programmer. Recently, she joined the development team at Film Independent, the home of the Los Angeles Film Festival and the Independent Spirit Awards. She is consulting producer on Lourdes Portillo's forthcoming feature debut *The House on Mango Street*, based on the bestselling novel by Sandra Cisneros. Stephan is also an active film programmer who has programmed for numerous international film festivals and arts organizations, including the São Paulo Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco Cinematheque, Outfest, the São Paulo International Short Film Festival, and the British Film Institute, where she has worked as a seasonal programmer since 2005.

### **ALEXANDRA CHOWANIEC            Producer**

Alexandra Chowaniec is visual artist creating oil paintings that conceptualize the human figure within contemporary visual culture. She is an MFA graduate from the San Francisco Art Institute and received her BFA Honors in Painting from Queen's University in Canada. Her work has been exhibited internationally, including at the Galerie d'Art Jean-Claude Bergeron and Wall Space Gallery in Ottawa, Canada; and The Lab, Art Engine Gallery, and The Diego Rivera Gallery in San Francisco. She was awarded the Irene Pijoan Memorial Painting Award, the Helen Nininger Memorial Scholarship in Fine Art and is a Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship Nominee. Her work has been published in *New American Paintings*, the *Ottawa Citizen* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* (online edition).

### **CARRIE BROWNSTEIN                Composer**

Carrie Brownstein is a musician, writer and actress. First known as a guitarist and vocalist in the (now-defunct) Portland, Oregon-based band Sleater-Kinney, Brownstein recently formed a new band, Wild Flag; they expect to release their first album sometime in 2011. *Portlandia*, her new sketch comedy show with *Saturday Night Live* alum Fred Armisen on the Independent Film Channel, began airing in January 2011.

# **!WOMEN ART REVOLUTION (!W.A.R.)**

## **FEATURED ARTISTS (In Alphabetical Order)**

### **MARINA ABRAMOVIC**

Performance Artist

### **ELEANOR ANTIN**

Artist and Filmmaker; Professor Emeritus, UC San Diego

### **JANINE ANTONI**

Artist and MacArthur Fellow

### **JUDITH BACA**

Muralist; Director/Founder, Social and Public Art Center (SPARC); Professor, UCLA

### **CORNELIA BUTLER**

Chief Curator, Department of Drawings, Museum of Modern Art; Curator, "WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution"

### **JUDY CHICAGO**

Artist; Founder, Feminist Art Programs at Fresno and CalArts; Founder, Feminist Studio Workshop and the Los Angeles Women's Building

### **ALEXANDRA CHOWANIEC**

Artist

### **SHEILA DE BRETTEVILLE**

Artist; Chair, Art and Design, Yale University; Founder, Los Angeles Women's Building

### **MARY BETH EDELSON**

Artist; Organizer, 1st National Conference for Women in the Visual Arts, Washington D.C.; Active Participant in A.I.R. Gallery and the Heresies Collective

### **HOWARD FOX**

Senior Curator, Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Curator, "Eleanor Antin and Made in California: Art, Image, and Identity 1900–2000"

### **SUSAN GRODE**

Partner of KMZR Law Firm; Legal representation for Judy Chicago, "The Dinner Party" and numerous Feminist Artists

### **GUERRILLA GIRLS**

Organization of anonymous gorilla-masked avengers fighting sexism and racism in the art world

### **HARMONY HAMMOND**

Artist, Art Writer and Independent Curator; Co-founder of A.I.R. Gallery; Co-editor of *Heresies* Feminist Art Journal; Professor, University of Arizona Tucson

# **!WOMEN ART REVOLUTION (!W.A.R.)**

## **FEATURED ARTISTS (cont.)**

### **AMELIA JONES**

Professor and Pilkington Chair, Art History and Visual Studies, School of Arts, Histories, and Cultures, University of Manchester

### **MIRANDA JULY**

Performance Artist, Filmmaker and Author

### **Yael KANAREK**

Artist and Rockefeller New Media Fellow

### **MIKE KELLEY**

Artist, Filmmaker and Musician

### **JOYCE KOZLOFF**

Artist; Founding Member, *Heresies* Feminist Art Journal; Founding Member, Pattern and Decoration Movement; Rockefeller Fellow

### **BARBARA KRUGER**

Conceptual Artist

### **SUZANNE LACY**

Installation, Video and Performance Artist; Chair, Art Department, Otis College of Art and Design

### **KRISTA G. LYNES**

Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, San Francisco Art Institute; Writer, Art Historian and Critic

### **YOKO ONO**

Artist, Musician and Peace Activist

### **HOWARDENA PINDELL**

Artist; Professor, Art Department, SUNY Stony Brook

### **YVONNE RAINER**

Dancer, Choreographer and Filmmaker; Professor, UC Irvine; Recipient, MacArthur Fellow

### **B. RUBY RICH**

Film Critic and Film Festival Programmer; Professor, UC Santa Cruz; Author of *Chick Flicks: Theories and Memories of the Feminist Film Movement*

### **FAITH RINGGOLD**

Artist, Writer and Children's Book Author; Founder, Where We At and WASBAL; Guggenheim Fellow

### **RACHEL ROSENTHAL**

Performance Artist and Founder, Womanspace; Los Angeles Artistic Director and Performer with The Rachel Rosenthal Company

### **MARTHA ROSLER**

Artist and Author; Professor, Rutgers University

# **!WOMEN ART REVOLUTION (!W.A.R.)**

## **FEATURED ARTISTS (cont.)**

### **MOIRA ROTH**

Writer and Feminist Art Historian; Professor, Mills College; Author of *Amazing Decade: Women and Performance Art, 1970-1980*

### **MIRIAM SCHAPIRO**

Artist and Founding Member, Pattern and Decoration Movement; Co-founder, Feminist Art Program at CalArts

### **CAROLEE SCHNEEMANN**

Multidisciplinary Artist, Author

### **CINDY SHERMAN**

Photographer, Conceptual Artist and Filmmaker

### **LOWERY STOKES SIMS**

President and Curator, The Studio Museum in Harlem; Former Curator of Modern Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art

### **INGRID SISCHY (DISBAND)**

Musician; Former Editor-in-Chief, *Interview Magazine*; International Editor, *Vanity Fair*

### **SILVIA SLEIGH**

Artist

### **NANCY SPERO**

Artist and Activist; Founding Member of A.I.R Gallery

### **MARCIA TUCKER**

Founder and Former Director, New Museum of Contemporary Art; Curator, "Bad Girls"; and Former Curator of Painting and Sculpture, Whitney Museum

### **CAMILLE UTTERBACK**

Artist and Programmer in the field of interactive installation; taught in the MFA Design of Technology department, Parsons School of Design, and the Interactive Telecommunication Program at New York University; MacArthur Fellow

### **CECILIA VICUÑA**

Poet, Filmmaker and Performance Artist

### **MARTHA WILSON**

Performance Artist and Founding Director, Franklin Furnace Archive, Inc.



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## **CREDITS**

*Writer / Director / Producer / Editor*  
**LYNN HERSHMAN LEESON**

*Executive Producer*  
**SARAH PETER**

*Producer*  
**KYLE STEPHAN**

*Producer*  
**ALEXANDRA CHOWANIEC**

*Co-Producer and Music Supervisor*  
**CARLA SACKS**

*Original Score*  
**CARRIE BROWNSTEIN**

*Associate Producers*  
**LAURA BLEREAU, ARIEL DOUGHERTY, MICHELLA RIVERA-GRAVAGE, JAN ZIVIC**

*Cinematographers include:*  
**HIRO NARITA, ANTONIO ROSSI, FAWN YACKER, LISE SWENSON,  
LYNN HERSHMAN LEESON**

*Color Correction*  
**ED RUDOLPH**

*Project Consultant*  
**GAIL SILVA**

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[www.zeitgeistfilms.com](http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com)

<http://www.womenartrevolution.com/>

Additional archived interviews can also be viewed at [lib.stanford.edu/women-art-revolution](http://lib.stanford.edu/women-art-revolution)