

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

For Immediate Release

52 ARTISTS: A FEMINIST MILESTONE

June 6, 2022 to January 8, 2023

The Aldrich announces historic reexamination of landmark exhibition, charting the evolution of feminist art practices over the past five decades and featuring the addition of twenty-six emerging artists



Left: Tourmaline, *Coral Hairstreak*, 2020. Dye sublimation print, 29 ½" x 30". Courtesy of the artist and Chapter NY, New York. Photo: Dario Lasagni. Center: Erin M. Riley, *Webcam 2*, 2020. Wool, cotton, 72" x 100". Courtesy of the artist and P-P-O-W, New York. Right: Stella Zhong, *Every Other Chopped*, 2021. 81" x 68" x 65", Epoxy putty, air dry clay, wire, grout, aqua resin, tint, sand, epoxy, paint, plaster, foam, wood, ball bearing. Courtesy of the artist and Chapter NY, New York.

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to announce the list of twenty-six emerging artists participating in the landmark presentation of *52 Artists: A Feminist Milestone*, on view June 6, 2022 to January 8, 2023. The exhibition celebrates the fifty-first anniversary of the historic exhibition *Twenty Six Contemporary Women Artists*, curated by Lucy R. Lippard and presented at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in 1971. *52 Artists* will showcase work by the artists included in the original 1971 exhibition, alongside a new roster of twenty-six female identifying or nonbinary emerging artists that were born in or after 1980, tracking the evolution of feminist art practices over the past five decades. The new generation of artists included in the exhibition are:

Leilah Babirye
Phoebe Berglund
LaKela Brown
Lea Cetera
Susan Chen
Pamela Council
Lizania Cruz
Florencia Escudero
Alanna Fields

Emilie L. Gossiaux
Ilana Harris-Babou
Loie Hollowell
Maryam Hoseini
Hannah Levy
Amaryllis DeJesus Moleski
Catalina Ouyang
Anna Park
Erin M. Riley

LJ Roberts
Aya Rodriguez-Izumi
Aliza Shvarts
Astrid Terrazas
Tourmaline
Rachel Eulena Williams
Kiyon Williams
Stella Zhong

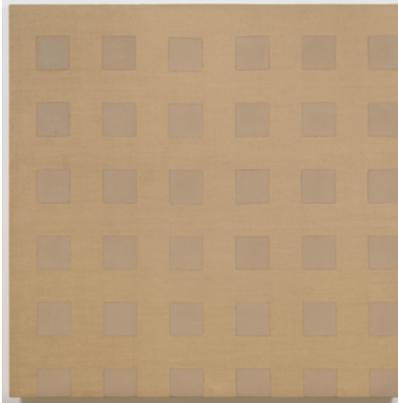
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The new artists, who are all based in New York City, will have not had a major solo museum exhibition in the United States as of March 1, 2022, aligning both with The Aldrich's mission of representing the work of emerging artists and with Lippard's original mandate for the 1971 exhibition. "This group of 26 emerging artists reflect the revolutionary advancement of feminist art practices over half a century and exhibit a diversity of experiences and a multiplicity of sensibilities united by a twenty-first



Left: Merrill Wagner, *Untitled*, 1969. Courtesy of the artist and David Zwirner, New York. Right: Merrill Wagner, *Inlet*, 2010. Courtesy of the artist and David Zwirner, New York.

century feminist expression that is inclusive, expansive, elastic, and free," said **The Aldrich's Senior Curator Amy Smith-Stewart**, who curated the contemporary selection. *52 Artists* will encompass the entirety of the Museum (approx. 8,000 sq. ft)—the first exhibition to do so since The Aldrich's new building was inaugurated in 2004. The exhibition is organized by The Aldrich's Senior Curator Amy Smith-Stewart and independent curator Alexandra Schwartz, with The Aldrich's Curatorial Assistant Caitlin Monachino.

"*52 Artists: A Feminist Milestone* is one of our most ambitious exhibitions to date," said **Cybele Maylone, Executive Director of The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum**. "The exhibition charts the Museum's commitment to emerging and underrepresented artists over time and offers an unparalleled opportunity for vital scholarship about the historic legacy of the 1971 exhibition. We are delighted to bring together this exceptional roster of artists for this timely and important show."

On view at The Aldrich from April 18 to June 13, 1971, *Twenty Six Contemporary Women Artists* was organized by writer, art critic, activist, and curator Lucy R. Lippard, who viewed curating this landmark exhibition as an activist gesture. In its catalogue, she states: "I took on this show because I knew there were many women artists whose work was as good or better than that currently being shown, but who, because of the prevailing discriminatory policies of most galleries and museums, can rarely get anyone to visit their studios or take them as seriously as their male counterparts." With this exhibition, Lippard arguably founded feminist curatorial practice in this country.

52 Artists will survey this landmark exhibition, including works of art from the original exhibition and recreations of some of the more ephemeral pieces, and, if neither are available, related works from the same period. The exhibition will also include recent works by many of the original artists, examining how their practices have evolved over the past fifty years. By showing the original group alongside emerging artists of today, the exhibition will testify both to the historic impact of Lippard's milestone exhibition and the influence of the original twenty-six artists she presented at The Aldrich on a new generation of artists.

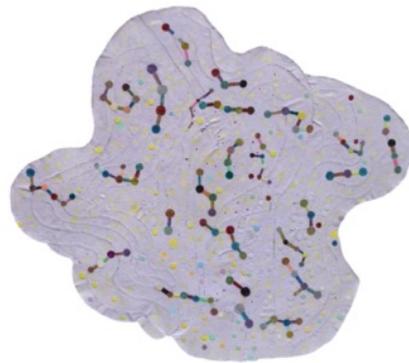
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Lippard's original 1971 exhibition at The Aldrich was one of the first institutional responses to the issue of women artists' invisibility in museums and galleries. More specifically, the show offered a rejoinder to the protests by the Ad Hoc Women Artists Committee (founded by Poppy Johnson, Brenda Miller, Faith Ringgold, and Lucy Lippard) over the absence of women in the Whitney Museum of American Art's 1970 *Sculpture Annual*. *Twenty Six Contemporary Women Artists* opened the floodgates to a host of other feminist exhibitions throughout the 1970s, signaling Lippard's emergence as a visionary feminist curator and critic and marking the debut of many groundbreaking artists. *52 Artists* not only celebrates this radical exhibition but underscores its ongoing influence on future generations of artists.



Left: Howardena Pindell, *Untitled*, 1968-70. Mott-Warsh Collection, Flint, Michigan, Photo credit: Robert Hensleigh and Tim Thayer. Right: Howardena Pindell, *Carnival: Bahia, Brazil*, 2017. Courtesy of the artist and Garth Greenan Gallery, New York.

The original 1971 catalogue was designed by architect and scholar Susana Torre. A new, 180-page hardcover book designed by Gretchen Kraus, The Aldrich's Design Director, and co-published with Gregory R. Miller & Co., will accompany the exhibition. This significant catalogue will include new essays by Lippard, Smith-Stewart, and Schwartz, as well as rare historical documentation of the original exhibition, images, installation views, and checklists from both the 1971 and 2022 shows.

Participants:

Leilah Babirye (b. 1985)
Phoebe Berglund (b. 1980)
LaKela Brown (b. 1982)
Lea Cetera (b. 1983)
Susan Chen (b. 1992)
Pamela Council (b. 1986)
Lizania Cruz (b. 1983)
Florencia Escudero (b. 1987)
Alanna Fields (b. 1990)
Emilie L. Gossiaux (b. 1989)
Ilana Harris-Babou (b. 1991)
Loie Hollowell (b. 1983)
Maryam Hoseini (b. 1988)

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Hannah Levy (b. 1991)
Amaryllis DeJesus Moleski (b. 1985)
Catalina Ouyang (b. 1993)
Anna Park (b. 1996)
Erin M. Riley (b. 1985)
LJ Roberts (b. 1980)
Aya Rodriguez-Izumi (b. 1986)
Aliza Shvarts (b. 1986)
Astrid Terrazas (b. 1996)
Tourmaline (b. 1983)
Rachel Eulena Williams (b. 1991)
Kiyon Williams (b. 1991)
Stella Zhong (b. 1993)

The artists whose work was presented in the original 1971 exhibition are as follows. All but three of the original twenty-six artists will have work included in *52 Artists* (*Starred artists are not participating):

Cecile Abish (b. 1926)
Alice Aycock (b. 1946)
Cynthia Carlson (b. 1942)
Sue Ann Childress* (b. 1947)
Glorianna Davenport* (b. 1944)
Susan Hall (b. 1943)
Mary Heilmann (b. 1940)
Audrey Hemenway (1930-2008)
Laurace James (b. 1936)
Mablen Jones (1943-2021)
Carol Kinne (1942-2016)
Christine Kozlov (1945-2005)
Brenda Miller (b. 1941)
Mary Miss (b. 1944)
Dona Nelson (b. 1947)
Louise Parks* (b. 1944)
Shirley Pettibone (1936-2011)
Howardena Pindell (b. 1943)
Adrian Piper (b. 1948)
Sylvia Plimack Mangold (b. 1938)
Reeva Potoff (b. 1941)
Paula Tavins (1936-2019)
Merrill Wagner (b. 1935)
Grace Bakst Wapner (b. 1934)
Jackie Winsor (b. 1941)
Barbara Zucker (b. 1940)

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The catalogue for *52 Artists: A Feminist Milestone* is generously supported by the Eric Diefenbach and James-Keith Brown Publications Fund and the Girlfriend Fund.



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