



## A Companion to Feminist Art

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## Original essays offering fresh ideas and global perspectives on contemporary feminist art

The term 'feminist art' is often misused when viewed as a codification within the discipline of Art History—a codification that includes restrictive definitions of geography, chronology, style, materials, influence, and other definitions inherent to Art Historical and museological classifications. Employing a different approach, *A Companion to Feminist Art* defines 'art' as a dynamic set of material and theoretical practices in the realm of culture, and 'feminism' as an equally dynamic set of activist and theoretical practices in the realm of politics. Feminist art, therefore, is not a simple classification of a type of art, but rather the *space* where feminist politics and the domain of art-making intersect. The *Companion* provides readers with an overview of the developments, concepts, trends, influences, and activities within the space of contemporary feminist art—in different locations, ways of making, and ways of thinking.

Newly-commissioned essays focus on the recent history of and current discussions within feminist art. Diverse in scope and style, these contributions range from essays on the questions and challenges of large sectors of artists, such as configurations of feminism and gender in post-Cold War Europe, to more focused conversations with women artists on Afropean decoloniality. Ranging from discussions of essentialism and feminist aesthetics to examinations of political activism and curatorial practice, the *Companion* informs and questions readers, introduces new concepts and fresh perspectives, and illustrates just how much more there is to discover within the realm of feminist art.

Addresses the intersection between feminist thinking and major theories that have influenced art theory

- Incorporates diverse voices from around the world to offer viewpoints on global feminisms from scholars who live and work in the regions about which they write
- Examines how feminist art intersects with considerations of collectivity, war, maternal relationships, desire, men, and relational aesthetics
- Explores the myriad ways in which the experience of inhabiting and perceiving aged, raced, and gendered bodies relates to feminist politics in the art world
- Discusses a range practices in feminism such as activism, language, education, and different ways of making art

The intersection of feminist art-making and feminist politics are not merely components of a unified whole, they sometimes diverge and divide. *A Companion to Feminist Art* is an indispensable resource for artists, critics, scholars, curators, and anyone seeking greater strength on the subject through informed critique and debate.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Hilary Robinson** is Professor of Feminism, Art, and Theory at Loughborough University, UK. She is former Dean of the College of Fine Arts, Carnegie Mellon University, USA, and earlier, was Head of the School of Art and Design at the University of Ulster, Belfast, UK. Her publications include *Visibly Female: Women and Art Today* (1987) , *Reading Art, Reading Irigaray: The Politics of Art by Women* (2006) , and *Feminism-Art-Theory* 1968#2014 (2015).

Maria Elena Buszek is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of Colorado Denver. She is author of *Pin???Up Grrrls:* Feminism, Sexuality, Popular Culture (2006) and Extra/Ordinary: Craft and Contemporary Art (2011). A prolific independent curator as well as a scholar, she has also served as a curatorial assistant at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.



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