



NATIONAL MUSEUM *of WOMEN in the ARTS*

1250 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3970
TEL · 202 783 5000
FAX · 202 393 3234
WWW.NMWA.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Stacy Meterer, 202-783-7377

smeteer@nmwa.org

Amy Mannarino, 202-783-7373

amannarino@nmwa.org

National Museum of Women in the Arts Celebrates 30th-Anniversary Year with Special Exhibitions, Programs and Events



WASHINGTON—When the National Museum of Women in the Arts ([NMWA](http://www.nmwa.org)) opened its doors to the public in 1987, it became the first museum in the world devoted to celebrating the accomplishments of women artists. Over the last 30 years, the museum has championed both established and emerging women artists with dynamic exhibitions. More recently, NMWA has worked to increase awareness of gender equity issues with its unprecedented platform for public conversation through the Women, Arts and Social Change initiative and with its award-winning social media campaign #5WomenArtists.

To commemorate the museum's 30th anniversary, NMWA has announced a year of special exhibitions, programs and events. In preparation for the celebration, the museum has reinstalled its collection galleries and announced new acquisitions that broaden its holdings.

“Over the last three decades, we have charted a new course for museums by consistently, often brazenly, bolstering the careers of many women artists. It is a fact that women continue to be unfairly underrepresented in museums and galleries, nationally and internationally,” said NMWA Director Susan Fisher Sterling. “We stand as advocates for equity and excellence when it comes to women in the arts, and our generous donors and partners, visitors, and online communities support us and are key to our ongoing success. Allow me to extend an invitation to all audiences to celebrate women artists’ accomplishments by participating in our 30th-anniversary exhibitions and programs.”

Program highlights include:

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

[REVIVAL](#)

June 23–September 10, 2017

Offering a new look at the nature of spectacle, this exhibition presents contemporary sculptors and photo-based artists whose arresting aesthetics and intense subject matter spur the viewer into a transcendent encounter with the art object. Works by Louise Bourgeois, Petah Coyne, Lalla Essaydi, Maria Marshall, Alison Saar and other global artists create immersive, mesmeric environments.

[Equilibrium: Fanny Sanín](#)

July 14–October 29, 2017

Born in 1938 in Bogotá, Colombia, Fanny Sanín developed her visual language during Colombia’s vibrant avant-garde art scene in the 1950s and ’60s. Sanín’s works feature clean-edged geometric forms for which she makes up to 18 preliminary studies. *Equilibrium* invites viewers into the artist’s meticulous, intuitive process.

Wonder Women!

July 17–November 17, 2017, in the Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center

Open Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–5 p.m.

From the Guerrilla Girls righting the wrongs of the art world to painter Edna Reindel’s tough WWII riveters, to vintage feminist comic books—it’s the celebration of the *Wonder Women!* Explore images of the powerful woman, real and fictional, in a wide-ranging selection drawn from the special collections and artists’ archives of the Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center.

Inside the Dinner Party Studio

September 17, 2017–January 5, 2018

The creation of Judy Chicago’s monumental and radical work, *The Dinner Party*, is surveyed through archives, documentation and film. Over the course of nearly five years and with the help of hundreds of volunteers, Chicago executed one of the most iconic artworks of the 20th century, confronting the erasure of women from history using elaborate research, craft and presentation.

[Magnetic Fields: Expanding American Abstraction, 1960s to Today](#)

October 13, 2017–January 21, 2018

Magnetic Fields is the first U.S. exhibition to explore the formal and historical dialogue on abstraction among black women artists. Featuring work by more than 20 women, including Mavis Pusey, Shinique Smith and Chakaia Booker, *Magnetic Fields* is intergenerational in scope and highlights the longstanding presence of black women artists within the field of abstraction in the U.S.

El Tendedero/The Clothesline Project, D.C.

November 10, 2017–January 5, 2018

Artist Mónica Mayer focuses on ways the arts can create awareness and inspire community-based advocacy directed at reducing violence against women in different communities, from sexual harassment to domestic violence. Working with artists, activists and organizations in the Washington area, this September Mayer will facilitate another of her important *Clothesline Project* participatory works. The installation at the museum in November will document the results of the project, using content created through community outreach.

Womenhouse

March 9–May 28, 2018

Womenhouse presents more than 30 international artists who conceive of home as a place for demonstration and liberation rather than a space solely for nurturing comfort and stability. Similar to their artistic foremothers in the 1970s, contemporary artists in *Womenhouse* recast conventional ideas about women and the home with acuity and wit, creating photographs, videos, sculptures and room-like installations.

WOMEN, ARTS AND SOCIAL CHANGE FRESH TALKS

FRESH TALK: AMPLIFY—Judy Chicago

Sunday, September 17, 2017, 4:30–6 p.m., followed by Sunday Supper

How can the arts amplify our voices and visibility? Explore Judy Chicago's ongoing dedication to amplifying the voices of women, most famously through her epic work, *The Dinner Party* (1979), which is the subject of *Inside the Dinner Party Studio*, a behind-the-scenes archival exhibition at NMWA on view from September 17, 2017–January 5, 2018.

- **Judy Chicago**, artist
- **Alison Gass**, director of the Smart Museum of Art in Chicago

FRESH TALK FORUM: Mónica Mayer—*El Tendedero/The Clothesline Project*

Sunday, November 12, 2017, 4:30–6 p.m., followed by Sunday Supper

On view in NMWA'S Teresa Lozano Long Gallery, November 10, 2017–January 5, 2018

Fresh Talk Forums reach beyond the museum's walls with interactive art projects and community collaborations. How can the arts create awareness and inspire advocacy to help end oppression, violence and domestic abuse? Explore Mónica Mayer's art practice and be part of a conversation with participants in NMWA's *El Tendedero/The Clothesline Project, D.C.*

- **Mónica Mayer**, artist
- ***El Tendedero/The Clothesline Project, D.C.*** participants

FRESH TALK: RIGHTING THE BALANCE III—Museums as Change Agents

March 2018, date TBD

Can there be gender parity in museums? Across Europe, museums are expressing an increasing commitment to showing work by women artists and highlighting the contributions made by many women who have been overlooked. What do these changes mean? How will they be sustained? Is gender parity in museums possible?

- **Laurence des Cars**, director, Musée d'Orsay, Paris
- **Frances Morris**, director, Tate Modern, London
- **Eike Schmidt**, director, Uffizi Gallery, Florence

FRESH TALK: DIRECTING CHANGE

Sunday, April 15, 2018, 4:30–6 p.m., followed by Sunday Supper

How can the documentary film industry disrupt stereotypical gender roles and representation of women and girls? Directors, producers and advocates discuss the shifting portrayal of women and girls in media and how documentary filmmaking can support more diverse perspectives.

- **Esther Pearl**, executive director, Camp Reel Stories and Media Camp for Girls
- **Tiffany Shlain**, Emmy-nominated filmmaker, founder of The Webby Awards and co-founder of 50/50 Day, and additional speakers to be announced

FRESH TALK: OUT LOUD

Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 7–9:30 p.m., followed by Catalyst, a cocktail hour with a topic and a twist

Poets have long been society's truth-tellers and witnesses, using language to illuminate our trials, histories and hopes. Join us for a night of spoken word performance and conversation with leading poets whose work explores and celebrates cultural heritage, womanhood and helps us imagine better futures.

- **Elizabeth Acevedo**, poet and young-adult novelist
- **Emtithal Mahmoud**, poet and activist
- Additional speakers to be announced

IN THE GALLERIES

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! Drop-In Tour: Fierce Women

Sunday, August 6, 2017, 1–2 p.m. and September 3, 2017, 1–2 p.m.

Visitors can discover a diverse cast of fierce women who refused to let men define their place; thumbed their noses at the limited roles society accorded them; and blazed trails as artists, activists and innovators.

Artists in Conversation, October 2017–January 2018

Contemporary women artists in the exhibition *Magnetic Fields* will discuss their backgrounds, artistic processes and philosophies, and provide insight into their works on view during this informal and intimate in-gallery experience.

Free Community Days

First Sunday of every month, 12–5 p.m.

The first Sunday of every month is a Community Day at NMWA, with free admission to the public. Visitors can take this opportunity to explore current exhibitions as well as the museum's newly reinstalled collection.

SPECIAL EVENTS

[REVIVAL Exhibition Opening Party](#)

Thursday, June 22, 2017, 7:30–11 p.m.

Celebrate the opening of the exhibition *REVIVAL* and NMWA's 30th-anniversary year. Guests enjoy a first look at the exhibition, an open bar, light refreshments and the all-female bluegrass band Sweet Yonder.

Makers Mart Arts & Craft Fair

Sunday, October 29, 2017, 12–5 p.m., and Monday, October 30, 2017, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

The Makers' Mart Arts & Craft Fair will fill the Great Hall with a pop-up artisan market, promoting local women artists and designers who create hand-crafted art and merchandise. A wide variety of products will be available, including jewelry, fine art, home accents and personal accessories.

Shenson Chamber Music Concerts

Under Artistic Director Gilan Tocco Corn, the Shenson Series has thrilled audiences with more than 60 free performances, featuring emerging and established women musicians since its inception in 1998.

- **Sang-Eun Lee**, cello, Wednesday, October 18, 2017
- **Danbi Um**, violin, Wednesday, November 8, 2017
- Special guest performance by **Angela Hewitt**, piano, Wednesday, May 2, 2018
- **ModernMedieval Trio of Voices**, Wednesday, May 9, 2018
- **Aizuri Quartet**, Wednesday, May 23, 2018

Visit <https://nmwa.org/visit/calendar> for a complete schedule of events, pricing and reservation information.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS:

The National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA) is the world's only major museum solely dedicated to celebrating the creative contributions of women. The museum champions women through the arts by collecting, exhibiting, researching and creating programs that advocate for equity and shine a light on excellence. NMWA highlights remarkable women artists of the past while also promoting the best women artists working today. The museum's collection includes over 5,000 works by more than 1,000 women artists from the 16th century to the present, including Mary Cassatt, Frida Kahlo, Alma Thomas, Lee Krasner, Louise Bourgeois, Chakaia Booker and Nan Goldin.

NMWA is located at 1250 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., in a landmark building near the White House. It is open Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Sunday, noon–5 p.m. For information, call 202-783-5000 or visit nmwa.org. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for visitors 65 and over and students, and free for NMWA members and youths 18 and under. Free Community Days take place on the first Sunday of each month. For more information about NMWA, visit nmwa.org, [Broad Strokes Blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

###

Credit Lines:

Revival is organized by the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The exhibition is supported in part by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and Share Fund, with additional funding provided by the Judith A. Finkelstein Exhibition Fund and American Airlines, the official airline of the museum's 30th Anniversary, and NMWA's Ohio Advisory Group.

Equilibrium: Fanny Sanín, presented in the Teresa Lozano Long Gallery of the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA), is organized by the museum and generously supported by the members of NMWA.

Magnetic Fields: Expanding American Abstraction, 1960s to Today is organized by the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri, and is supported in part by awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. The exhibition presentation at NMWA is made possible through the generous support of Stephanie Sale. Additional funding is provided by American Airlines, the official airline of the museum's 30th Anniversary.

Womenhouse is organized by La Monnaie de Paris. The exhibition's presentation at NMWA is made possible by GRoW @ Annenberg, with additional support provided by Belinda de Gaudemar and American Airlines, the official airline of the museum's 30th Anniversary.

Education programming is made possible by SunTrust, Gladys Kemp Lisanby, and the Leo Rosner Foundation. Additional support is provided by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Wells Fargo, the Harriet E. McNamee Youth Education Fund, William and Christine Leahy, and the Junior League of Washington.

The Women, Arts, and Social Change public program initiative is made possible through leadership gifts from Denise Littlefield Sobel, Lorna Meyer Calas and Dennis Calas, the MLDauray Arts Initiative, and the Swartz Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Bernstein Family Foundation, Marcia and Frank Carlucci, Deborah G. Carstens, the Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund, and The Reva and David Logan Foundation.

American Airlines is the official airline of the museum's 30th Anniversary.

Image Credit Lines:

Top row, L–R: Photo by Kevin Allen; Photo by Emily Haight; Photo by Lee Stalsworth

Bottom row, L–R: Photo by Tom Field; Photo by Lee Stalsworth; Louise Bourgeois, *Spider III*, 1995; Bronze, 19 x 33 x 33 in.; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Wilhelmina Cole Holladay; Art © The Easton Foundation/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY