

Citizen Divas: Women, Art, and Social Justice A Panel in celebration of International Women's Day

Saturday March 6th

MOCA- The Museum of Contemporary Art, AUDITORIUM

250 South Grand Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Further information: buchanan@calarts.edu, wertheim@calarts.edu

Organized by Nancy Buchanan, Christine Wertheim and students from ID 517

This symposium focuses on social, geographical and conceptual arenas where the power of women to speak on behalf of themselves and their peers is strongly, radically asserted through works of art and activism.

12.00-12.30 - Introduction by artist **Andrea Bowers**

12.30- 2.30 - **Lourdes Portillo** will discuss the making of her film, *Senorita Extraviada, Missing Young Woman*, a documentary examining the mystery of the hundreds of young women murdered in Juarez, Mexico.

+ **Claudia Bernardi** organized a *Tapestry of History* with Guatemalan survivors of massacres who came from Chajul, Nebaj, Chimaltenango, Ixil, Ixcán and Rabinal to share their stories.

3.00- 5.00 - **Andrea Liss**, Art Historian and author of *Feminism and the Maternal* will discuss the radical mother-artists featured in her book.

+ Activist **Margaret Prescod** will discuss the work of grassroots women in her presentation, *Women, Haiti and the Struggle for Democracy*.

With additional short presentations by the organizers.

Andrea Bowers has explored individual expression within society at large in her ground-breaking installations, video and drawings. Her work offers a uniquely feminist critique, eliding dogma for dissent and exploding simple notions of radicality.

Claudia Bernardi is an internationally renowned artist who works in the fields of human rights and social justice. She is an artist who has witnessed monstrous atrocities and unspeakable human tragedies, yet speaks of these horrors in ways that communicate the persistence of hope, undeniable integrity, and necessary remembrance.

Andrea Liss is Contemporary Art Historian and Cultural Theorist at California State University, San Marcos, where her teaching focuses on feminist art and theory, photographic theory and representations of memory and history. She has published *Trespassing through Shadows: Memory, Photography and the Holocaust* as well as *Feminist Art and the Maternal*.

Lourdes Portillo is an acclaimed filmmaker whose work has received many awards and honors. For three decades, in films like *Señorita Extraviada*, *La Ofrenda: The Days of the Dead*, and *The Devil Never Sleeps*, she has addressed important issues in a unique manner, unflinching in her examination of the subject, yet radical in form.

Margaret Prescod came to independent radio station KPFK with years of experience as a women's rights and anti-racist activist; including representing the voice of grassroots communities to UN conferences and consultations on women. She is co-founder of the Global Women's Strike, and host of *Sojourner Truth* a public affairs show on KPFK.