

A conversation to know if there is a conversation to be had

A one-day meeting of 10-14 female artists living and working in Amsterdam in September 2010.

This event is the second of a series of private meetings to take place in small semi-public spaces in the cities New York, London, Berlin and Amsterdam. The goal is to engage a critical discussion amongst female practicing artists to address our complicated relationships to a long history of feminism and female art history. ‘A conversation..’ aims to create a set of questions, or rather work together on editing a relevant series of questions about being a woman in the arts. This serves as an opportunity for professional female artists from varied fields to speak frankly about the current or underlying values and expectations as a female artist in the art world.

I will ask each person who can attend to send me any questions and/or one or two short readings that you think are relevant. I will compile and distribute these to all the participants to have a few weeks before the meeting. This list of questions and readings will serve as catalysts for the day to begin a conversation, and will be used as an anchor in the discussion to edit, expand and react to throughout the day.

The current long-term goal of this project is to create a publication of either edited transcriptions of the discussions from the four cities, or an ongoing journal which people contribute to. The first meeting in New York has resulted in further meetings and an initial blog to continue the conversation. I hope this and other ideas come up over the course of the other initial meetings, and there can be common discussion, whether online etc. afterwards. This could be adjusted and/or other projects can be pursued.

We will be meeting at the Kunstverein.nl on Ruyschstraat 4 III, 1091 CB, Amsterdam, and the meeting will take place either on September 5th or 12th at 1pm. Please RSVP by July 15th with whether you can attend and if either of those days are not possible for you.

Here is a brief set of questions that I would propose. I hope these can set a context in which you would feel excited to add your own questions or propose readings:

- What aspects of feminism in art history feel like they still open new avenues and which feel constraining?
- Is there a female subjectivity? Is it dependent on context?
- Is expression valued equally between men and women artists?
- How does one relate to the historic value of 'women's work', and would there be a benefit of self-organization in the art world?
- Is talking about yourself as a woman artist something that can only be done in certain contexts and why?

The invitees are: (with the hope that 12-20 are able to attend):

Lara Almarcegui
Yael Bartana
Nina Bovosso
Lonnie van Brummelen
Ruth Buchanan
Mariana Castillo Deball
Yael Davids
Amie Dicke
Iris van Dongen
Marlene Dumas

Hala Elkoussy
Ellen Gallagher
Yvonne Grootenburger
Nicoline von Harskamp
Clare Harvey
Sara Van Der Heide
Iris Kensmil
Natasja Kensmil
Carla Klein
Rachel Koolen
Irene Kopelman
Annette Krauss
Germaine Kruip
Rezi van Lankveld
Katja Mater
Wendelien van Oldenborgh
Maria Pask
Falke Pisano
Liza May Post
Lili Van der Stoker
Jennifer Tee
Helen Verhoeven
Evi Vingerling
Mieke van Voort
Barbara Visser
Michelle Williams
Nina Yuen

Melissa Gordon