

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

A one-day meeting of 15-25 female artists living and working in Berlin in June 2010.

This event is the third in 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 couple 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. Usually each meeting lasts about 5-6 hours and takes the format of a roundtable.

The current long-term goal of this project is to create a publication as a network of contributors from the four cities. The first meeting in New York at Dexter Sinister has resulted in further meetings, a blog, and material for a first publication after looking at historic female art publications such as Eau De Cologne and Heresies. The first meeting in Amsterdam at the Kunstverein has also been followed up with further meetings focusing on studio and exhibition visits. Other ideas can be pursued, as the overall project is open and expandable.

The meeting will take place at Salon Populaire either on June 19th at 1pm.

Here is a brief set of questions that I would propose to begin with. 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 15-25 are able to attend):

Rosa Barba
Nairy Bagramian
Elana Bajo
Nina Beier
Eva Berendes
Alexandra Birken
Ruth Buchanan
Keren Cytter
Mariana Castillo Deball
Trisha Donolley
Ceal Floyer

Judith Hopf
Sabine Hornig
Annette Kelm
Jutta Koether
Alicja Kwade
Alexandra Leykauf
Klara Liden
Dafna Maimon
Alisa Margolis
Karolin Meunier
Falke Pisano
Olivia Plender
Josephine Pryde
Julia Schmidt
Hito Steyrl
Mirjam Thomann
Susanne Winterling
Haegue Yang

Kind Regards,

Melissa Gordon