

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOIN' IT IN PUBLIC

FEMINISM AND ART AT THE WOMAN'S BUILDING

Doin' It in Public: Feminism and Art at the Woman's Building
Extended through February 26 at Otis College's Ben Maltz Gallery
Exhibition Explores the Work and World of Feminist Artists, Art Collectives
at the Los Angeles Woman's Building from 1973-1991
Exhibition, Programs and Publications in Collaboration with
Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980

LOS ANGELES – January 3, 2012 – Due to popular demand, the highly regarded exhibition ***Doin' It in Public: Feminism and Art at the Woman's Building***, has been extended through February 26 at the **Ben Maltz Gallery** on the main campus of **Otis College of Art and Design**. Along with historical ephemera and documentation, the show surveys the work of groundbreaking feminist artists, designers and artist collectives who gathered together at the Los Angeles Woman's Building from 1973 through 1991. *Doin' It in Public* is part of **Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980**. This unprecedented collaboration, initiated by the Getty, brings together more than sixty cultural institutions from across Southern California to tell the story of the birth of the L.A. art scene.

Otis College has organized multiple *Doin' It in Public* programs and events for the exhibition's final two months, including:

A gallery tour and presentation by **Feminist Art Workers: Cheri Gaulke and Laurel Klick** on Saturday, January 14 in the Ben Maltz Gallery. Gaulke and Klick are original members of the Feminist Art Workers, a collaborative performance group at the Woman's Building.

Show n' Tell will occur most Thursdays at Noon throughout the run of the exhibition at the Ben Maltz Gallery. A case in the exhibition is opened by curatorial staff, offering a closer look at some of the artists' books, graphic materials, and historical artifacts on display.

Updates and additions to an extensive website with an ongoing oral 'herstory' project linking to YouTube and Facebook. Currently there are over 40 videos including interviews with artists **Judy Chicago** and **Rachel Rosenthal**, and footage of 1970's era feminist art performances.

The closing ceremony by artist **Linda Vallejo** on Sunday, February 26 will pay homage to the elements of earth, water, fire, and air, the four cardinal directions, mother earth, father sky, and the great spirit. An altar, built for the opening ceremony of the exhibition, will be dismantled and momentos given to visitors as a remembrance of the Woman's Building community, sharing renewed creative energy with a younger generation.

The full events calendar can be viewed at www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery

The feminist art movement of the 1970s set off an explosion of art-making and analysis that continues to reverberate in the art world today, and the Woman's Building (WB) in Los Angeles was one of its epicenters. In 1973, artist **Judy Chicago**, graphic designer **Sheila Levrant de Bretteville**, and art

historian **Arlene Raven** founded the WB, and for over two decades it helped shape the regional and international cultural landscapes. Through extensive public performances, site-specific work, networking with political activists, and collaborations, the feminist art movement at the WB raised consciousness, invited dialogue, and transformed culture. The WB handed women their rightful claim to the role of "artist." It inspired and allowed members to create a community of women who saw art as a powerful tool for social change, and shared this vision with the public. A listing of the artists featured in *Doin' It in Public*, including **Miriam Schapiro**, **Faith Wilding**, **Betye Saar**, and **Suzanne Lacy**, can be found at www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery.

Exhibitions such as **WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution, 1965-1980**, (MOCA, Los Angeles, 2007); **Catalog L.A.: Birth of Art Capital: 1955-1985** (Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2006); and **Sexual Politics: Judy Chicago's Dinner Party in Feminist Art** (Hammer Museum, 1996) positioned the WB within the West Coast feminist art movement. This exhibition is the first to fully explore the contributions of the Woman's Building in its widest ramifications.

The major focus of *Doin' It in Public* is revealing the WB's emphasis on developing, teaching, and executing collaboration. The work of collaborative groups such as **Ariadne: A Social Art Network**, **Chrysalis Magazine**, **Feminist Art Workers**, **Feminist Studio Workshop**, **The L.A. Women's Video Center**, **Madre Tierra Press**, **Mother Art**, **Sisters Of Survival**, **The Waitresses**, and the **Women's Graphic Center** is presented and contextualized through the exhibition, programs, and publications.

Otis has released a two-volume publication in conjunction with the exhibition. **Volume I: From Site to Vision: the Woman's Building in Contemporary Culture**, is a collection of 14 essays originally published online in 2007, edited by **Sondra Hale** and **Terry Wolverton**. Essayists include Sheila Levrant de Bretteville and **Lucy R. Lippard**, activist and writer on contemporary art and culture. **Volume II: Doin' It in Public: Feminism and Art and the Woman's Building** includes research and writing by a prestigious team of scholars who assembled in 2008-09 to shape the curatorial focus of this project. The limited edition two-volume book set is available at <http://www.amazon.com> or through the gallery's website www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery

Doin' It in Public project directors at Otis are **Meg Linton**, Director of Galleries and Exhibitions, Ben Maltz Gallery and **Sue Maberry**, Director of Library and Information Technology and former Project Director at the Woman's Building. Former Woman's Building artists as well as Otis faculty members advising on the project include Suzanne Lacy, Director of Otis' Graduate Public Practice program, as well as Cheri Gaulke, **Jerri Allyn**, Terry Wolverton, **Nancy Angelo** and Sondra Hale. Curatorial and research interns assisting on the project are **Jenay Meraz**, **Joanne Mitchell**, **Julia Paoli**, **Kayleigh Perkov**, and **Paige Tighe** (MFA Public Practice '10).

BEN MALTZ GALLERY: Location, Hours, Admission, Parking

Location: Otis College of Art and Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Parking & Admission: Free. Visitor parking in structure off La Tijera Blvd.

Hours: Tue-Sat 10am-5pm / Thu 10am-7pm. Closed Sunday, Monday

Gallery Tours: 310.665.6909 to schedule tours for school, museum or other groups

Gallery Info: 310.665.6905, gallerinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu/benmaltzgallery

About Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945 – 1980

Pacific Standard Time is a collaboration of more than sixty cultural institutions across Southern California, coming together to tell the story of the birth of the Los Angeles art scene and how it became a major new force in the art world. Each institution will make its own contribution to this grand-scale story of artistic innovation and social change, told through a multitude of simultaneous exhibitions and programs. Exploring and celebrating the significance of the crucial post-World War II years through the tumultuous period of the 1960s and 70s, Pacific Standard Time encompasses developments from L.A. Pop to post-minimalism; from modernist architecture and design to multi-media installations; from the films of the African American L.A. Rebellion to the feminist activities of the Woman's Building; from ceramics to Chicano performance art; and from Japanese American design to the pioneering work of artists' collectives. Initiated through \$10 million in grants from the Getty Foundation, Pacific Standard Time involves cultural institutions of every size and character across Southern California, from Greater Los Angeles to San Diego and Santa Barbara to Palm Springs. <http://www.pacificstandardtime.org/>



Pacific Standard Time is an initiative of the Getty. The presenting sponsor is Bank of America.

The Getty Foundation fulfills the philanthropic mission of the Getty Trust by supporting individuals and institutions committed to advancing the understanding and preservation of the visual arts locally and throughout the world. Through strategic grants and programs, the Foundation strengthens art history as a global discipline, promotes the interdisciplinary practice of conservation, increases access to museum and archival collections, and develops current and future leaders in the visual arts. The Foundation carries out its work in collaboration with the Getty Museum, Research Institute, and Conservation Institute to ensure the Getty programs achieve maximum impact. Additional information is available at <http://www.getty.edu/foundation>. To learn more, subscribe to the Foundation's e-newsletter by visiting http://www.getty.edu/subscribe/foundation_news/

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About Otis: Founded in Los Angeles in 1918, Otis College of Art and Design prepares diverse students of art and design to enrich the world through their creativity, their skill, and their vision. The College offers an interdisciplinary education for 1200 full-time students, awarding BFA degrees in Advertising, Architecture/Landscape/Interiors, Digital Media, Fashion Design, Illustration, Graphic Design, Product Design, Painting, Photography, Sculpture/New Genres, and Toy Design; and MFA degrees in Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Public Practice, and Writing. Continuing Education offers certificate programs as well as personal and professional development courses. Additional information is available at <http://www.otis.edu>.

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