

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOIN'ITINPUBLIC

FEMINISM AND ART AT THE WOMAN'S BUILDING

Doin' It in Public: Feminism and Art at the Woman's Building
Opens to the Public October 1 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 – September 15, 2011 - The much-anticipated exhibition, ***Doin' It in Public: Feminism and Art at the Woman's Building***, opens October 1 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. The exhibition's opening reception and publication launch is expected to draw many of the artists who pioneered the feminist art movement in Los Angeles and beyond. Artist **Linda Vallejo** will enact a collaborative opening ceremony that recalls the legacy of the Woman's Building community. Vallejo's art performance will be followed by **The Waitresses**, a performance art group formed in 1977 by artists who were also waitresses, as well as graduates of the Feminist Studio Workshop at the Woman's Building. And renowned feminist artist and Woman's Building co-founder **Judy Chicago** will make a personal appearance and sign books at the opening reception October 1, 4pm-7pm. *Doin' It in Public* is on view October 1 through January 28, 2012. Admission and parking are free.

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 for six months beginning October 2011 to tell the story of the birth of the L.A. art scene.

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 is releasing 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.

On October 15 and 16, to complement the exhibition, Otis is producing ***Still Doin' It: Fanning the Flames of the Woman's Building***, with a performance by the **Feminist Art Workers**. Part convening, part symposium, part reunion, part performance, the two-day event is a dialogue between feminist artists then and now. *Doin' It in Public* scholars **Alexandra Juhasz**, **Jennie Klein**, **Michelle Moravec**, and **Jennifer Sorkin** present tours of the exhibition on Saturday afternoon, and WB writers read from their work in the evening at Antioch University. Sunday includes a no-host reunion breakfast with keynote speaker Sheila Levrant de Bretteville, plus interactive dialogues and performances including one by the Feminist Art Workers. On Sunday afternoon **Phranc**, the all-American Jewish lesbian folksinger, hosts "This Is Your Life: the Woman's Building" at the **Skirball Cultural Center**. The complete schedule and tickets are available at http://www.otis.edu/public_programs/ben_maltz_gallery/wb_tickets.html

Otis has organized multiple *Doin' It in Public* programs and events, spanning four months, including:

- Beginning October 6, **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 to share a closer look at some of the artists' books, graphic materials, and historical artifacts on display.
- On November 5, a premiere of the film ***Mother Art Tells Her Story***, followed by a tour of the show by feminist art cooperative **Mother Art** in the Ben Maltz Gallery.
- On January 14, a presentation by **Feminist Art Workers: Cheri Gaulke and Laurel Klick** in the Ben Maltz Gallery.

Otis has collaborated with other *Pacific Standard Time* participants to host interactive workshops and film screenings about related exhibition themes. Public programs include receptions, tours, and poetry readings, in addition to an extensive website with an ongoing oral 'herstory' project linking to YouTube and Facebook. Otis students will participate in curricular activities and produce an electronic news magazine that surveys feminist art today, and Otis' position in the evolution of the L.A. art scene. The full events calendar can be viewed at http://www.otis.edu/public_programs/ben_maltz_gallery/wb_events.html

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 (except for Oct 2 of opening weekend), Monday; Nov 24-29; Dec 20-Jan 2

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 for six months beginning in October 2011 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/

The exhibition and catalogue for *Doin' It in Public* were made possible by generous grants from the **Getty Foundation**. Additional funding was provided by the **Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Henry Luce Foundation, Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Los Angeles**, and the **Barbara Lee Family Foundation**.

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>.