

Some Issues to think About or Final Assignment

1. What kinds of attitudes, ideas, and institutions have typically blocked women from becoming artists?
2. What kinds of issues did 70's feminism raise and how have these affected subsequent women's art? Or, did 70's feminism have a positive or negative effect on subsequent women's art?
3. How have the fortunes of women architects paralleled those of women artists and/or photographers?
4. How have women artists treated the female body in art? The same way as men, or differently? If differently, in what ways and for what reasons?
5. What factors inhibited the practice and recognition of women artists before the twentieth century? How many of these same factors continued to limit women in the modern era?
6. Compare and contrast women's roles in Impressionism and Minimalism or Abstract Expressionism.
7. How did the emphasis on individual genius rather than collaborative effort in the earliest records of art history affect the way women have been neglected in art history throughout time until recently?
8. How did societal changes after WWII -- the creation of suburban, consumer culture -- affect gender roles and thus women in art, architecture, photography, and printmaking?
9. Women have always occupied dual roles in art, as selves and Others, as subjects and objects, as creators and created, as observers and images to be observed, relegated to the private sphere yet public objects of display. Explore how these paradoxical oppositions have enabled as well as diminished women's achievements in art.
10. How have art critics influenced the fortunes of women in art?
11. Given all the artists and movements we have studied in this course, can you make any generalizations about differences between women's art and that of men? Do you see any signs of a "female aesthetic" or do you think the differences are primarily socially constructed?