

# ARTISTS FOR GENDER EQUALITY

## I. Past

## II. Present

## III. Future



Featuring

Barbara Zucker, Lynn  
Hershman Leeson,  
Faith Ringgold, Joan  
Simmel, and Todd Levin

About the Film

“Many younger women don’t know what we did,” says sculptor Barbara Zucker, who co-founded A.I.R. Gallery—the first artist-run gallery for women in the United States—along with Susan Williams, in 1972. “In a sense, that’s a great thing. They should just be making work. They should just be recognized.”

It’s largely thanks to the activism of feminist artists like Zucker and Judy Chicago in the 1970s that the art world is beginning to make strides toward gender equality today. Here, Zucker is joined by artist and activist Faith Ringgold, figurative painter Joan Simmel, early new media pioneer Lynn Hershman Leeson, and art advisor Todd Levin. They reflect on the barriers that women faced back then, and the women’s support networks that helped to advance their cause.

# About the Series

Men have always dominated the Western art world, from the revered “Old Masters” to the heroic, hyper-masculine Abstract Expressionists. And although women artists have seen greater exposure in recent years, the reality is that they continue to lag behind men across every metric—including the prices their works command at auctions, their representation in gallery rosters, and their presence in museum collections.

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Artsy takes a closer look at the evolution of gender equality in the art world through the eyes of some of its most prominent figures across several generations. Pioneering artists like Faith Ringgold, Marilyn Minter, and Lynn Hershman Leeson reflect on the hurdles faced by women artists from the 1960s onwards, and the advances made over the last 50 years, while influential figures like Miranda July and up-and-comers like Petra Collins and Genevieve Gaignard discuss the state of the gender gap today.

Together, they suggest a vision for the future, one in which women artists have the same opportunities as their male peers, and where their voices and perspectives on the world are equally valued.

In 2013, Gucci founded CHIME FOR CHANGE, a global campaign to convene, unite and strengthen the voices speaking out for girls and women around the world. Gucci’s commitment to gender equality and the arts continues with a €1 million contribution as a founding partner of UNICEF’s Girls’ Empowerment Initiative. [Click here to learn more about the brand’s involvement.](#)

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