2020 WCA Conference Programming  
Theme: Intersectionality  
Columbia College, Chicago, IL  

Please note: All information is subject to change.

WORKSHOPS AND PANELS (90 Minutes each):

1. ARTIST TALKS:

Yeonhee Cheong, “Here and Now: A Case of Grappling with Identities”
My last 20 years in the U.S. has been a journey to grapple with identities and how to live accordingly. From a South Korean woman in her 20s pursuing a career in fashion to a Midwestern artist mom who gets inspired from the Wisconsin prairie and tries to balance between family and work, the question on identity has been at the bottom of my agony as well as my current creative research as an artist. I found rich vocabulary in botany to express my experiences and ideas into visual presence, not just in terms of gender but also ethnicity, class, and immigration. I will introduce my personal journey accompanied by visual, word encounters that helped me to make peace of my liquid identities, to show the mental behind scenes of my artworks that reveal the intricate nature of the act of identifying.

Yeonhee Cheong https://yeonheecheong.com

Corinna Sephora, “Blood of the Earth”
Iron Ore was used in metallurgy as far back as 2000 BCE. The rusty red strata ran through the earth as veins of blood. For centuries, it has been smelted into usable iron through spiritual rituals using gynomorphic furnaces, as well as through industrial means. The iron is turned into functional, spiritual, and visual work, including metal that becomes guns. Through heating and forging the metal of guns, I am setting the metal free through a transformative process.

Corinna Sephora http://corrinasephora.com

Anne Farley Gaines, “Projecting a Positive Future: Mural Series Created with Teens”
I will discuss a project for which I was the lead artist in summer 2018 with a group of 14 teens at the Jane Addams Family Resource Center across from a Chicago Housing Project at 1254 South Loomis Street in Chicago. The project was titled "The Role Models Series" and its purpose was for the students involved, and some viewers at the Center, to be encouraged to set high goals and objectives for their lives and ultimately have the necessary "tools" to fight discrimination, personally and professionally.
2. PANEL:
Laurie Hall, “Intersectional on Ideas, Interactive in Practice: Activist Artists in the Midwest”

Panelists TBA
Feminism, in a variety of manifestations, has opposed the injustices inflicted by some of our most deeply rooted cultural biases. Feminist campaigns have been waged against sexism, racism, homophobia, classism and colonization. Current crises in immigration, climate, and economic inequality demand immediate action. The horrific treatment of immigrant children and their families is only one example of the outrageous abuses of power we are witnessing. Since Kimberlé Crenshaw first used the term “intersectionality” in the late 1980s, feminism has continued to evolve, embracing affinity and ecology, confronting inequality and unsustainability. The intersectionality of these struggles persists.

Complex problems require complex ways of connecting, caring and creating solutions. The panel will have Midwest artists who generate spaces where diverse views can meet, allowing potential for dialog. When dialog occurs, it is possible to imagine productive ways of moving forward.

http://www.laurietalbothall.com

3. PANEL/WORKSHOP:
Maxine Hess/Barbara Rehg/Ann Rowles, “Intersectionality: Building Awareness, Brainstorming Ideas, and Exploring Collaborations”

Through an awareness of intersectionality, we can better acknowledge and ground the differences among us. The recognition of intersectionality within the WCA and WCA chapters has become central to increasing membership, designing programs, generating exhibits, writing grants, establishing a presence in the community. This interactive workshop is designed to increase awareness of intersectionality and identify some viable options for addressing it. Participants will be invited to respond to a questionnaire to assess their understanding of intersectionality and how it relates to them and others. Presenters will share some approaches WCAGA has used to build deeper connections with diverse groups through the visual arts and share what has worked/not worked. Participants will then be divided into small groups to share how as individuals, or possibly through their Chapters, approaches that have been used to increase awareness of intersectionality and what has worked/not worked. Finally, participants will have an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and explore possible collaborations for future work to increase opportunities for addressing
intersectionality. Before leaving the workshop, participants will be encouraged to record the results of their brainstorming process and discuss some possible next steps. Through this process and processes like this workshop we can hope to keep WCA current and responsive to the changing demographic.

Maxine Hess https://www.maxinehess.com  
Barbara Rehg http://www.breghstudios.com/breghstudios.com/Welcome.html  
Ann Rowles http://www.annrowles.com

4. WORKSHOP:  
Gilah Hirsch, “Art and Healing”  
The healing powers of art have been understood and practiced from ancient to contemporary indigenous cultures worldwide, yet they have only recently been appreciated in the West. While I have been an internationally exhibited fine artist since 1968, I have also been one of the pioneers in the use of art in healing.

I will present the evolution of my work in art and healing beginning in the early 1970’s to the present, citing my personal experience curing my own serious illness with art, as well as recovering from a near death accident with the use of visualization and art, visually reconstructing the body from the inside out. I will also present my work with children with cancer invited by the Sunshine Foundation, and with adults and children with cancer invited by the Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. Furthermore, I will show how I used art to heal trauma of women who had been raped and how this method was adopted in China where the word rape was not permitted.

Gilah Hirsch https://gilah.com

5. WORKSHOP:  
Linda Kattwinkel, “From Shepard Fairey to Fair Use: What Every Artist Needs to Know about Copyright Law”  
We are all influenced by each other’s work. But where is the line between being inspired and illegal copying? Is infringement the same as plagiarism? What is “fair use”? Can I depict famous people? Is it okay to mimic famous artworks? What about working from photographs? Is it safe to scan images from the web if I digitally alter them? Can I use old images, or works from other countries? When is parody okay? What if I’m making a political statement? Is it safe to use copyrighted imagery in my collages? When is something in the “public domain”? Am I losing rights to my artwork if I show it on social media sites? Do I need to worry about copyright registration?

In this workshop, artist and arts attorney Linda Joy Kattwinkel will explore these questions and other legal issues facing visual artists today. The
session will include a presentation featuring numerous examples of infringing and non-infringing case studies through side-by-side visual comparisons, and plenty of time for questions and answers.

6. WORKSHOP:
Laura Phelps Rogers, “The Art in the Everyday Community Quilt Project”
Laura encourages the contemplation of the everyday to include objects lying around us or common everyday things. She provides a substrate (a 5” wood disc) and asks participants to respond to the everyday through their own medium, collage and upcycling. The upcycling component allows the project to include an underlying message about the planet. As an exercise, the notion of the everyday allows artists to explore instantaneous thoughts and quickly respond as in the Exquisite Corpse or consider the ordinary as in the Semiotics of the Kitchen.
Laura Phelps Rogers http://www.lauraphelpsrogers.com/index_pc.php?pg=Home&for=text&user=lpr

7. PANEL:
Margaret Parker, “Feeding the World: Intersectionality and the Midwest Art Scene”
Panelists TBA
Intersectionality is woven deep into the history of the Midwest immigrant culture. Waves of migration came first to farm then for manufacturing jobs to the center of the country. In the great migration, African Americans moved north to find opportunity and fill industrial plants only to be pushed into some of the largest segregated ghettos in the country. Ancient earthworks by the earliest indigenous inhabitants still spring up between suburbs, even as contemporary tribal contracts demand a hearing. Conservative values of industry, farming and small towns have also built strong unions, large school systems and seminal art institutions. These cross currents have birthed artists with unique voices and powers of perseverance. This panel will bring artists, curators and writers to speak to how the Midwest is breaking artistic norms to see America anew - from its center.
Margaret Parker https://www.margaretparkerstudio.com

8. ARTIST TALK:
Carene Rudman, “Ellen Sandor: It’s Two Minutes to Midnight”
Ellen Sandor, whose work is at the intersection of art and science, participated in a women-driven exhibition “It’s Two Minutes to Midnight.” The collective works
invited viewers to engage in a shared dialogue surrounding the use of technology to expand or diminish longevity. She will discuss her work and the exhibition.

Carene Rudman http://www.carenhelenerudman.com
Ellen Sandor https://www.artn.com

9. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:
Ann Mohler, “Visual Arts Impact Intersectionality”

Artist Annie Mohler will welcome a women’s and ethnic studies professor, an art historian, and a multi-disciplinary artist for her presentation. Digital images or real art works will be evaluated by ourselves and conference participants.

10. WORKSHOP/DISCUSSION:
Emily Getsay, “LGBTQIA + Caucus Introduction and Inclusion”

The LGBTQIA + Caucus Introduction and Inclusion workshop will serve as the launch for the Women’s Caucus for Art of Georgia’s LGBTQIA+ Caucus and Queer Advisory Board. The workshop will create a safe space and hub for LGBTQIA+ members of the caucus to convene openly. The workshop will also teach attendees how to create their own LGBTQIA+ Caucus in their organization. There will be a training on inclusivity and what it means to be a part of the LGBTQIA + community. The workshop will include tools to bringing the LGBTQIA+ Caucus to each chapter and different ways to incorporate the local queer community.

CAUCUS MEETINGS/PROGRAMS (90 minutes each):
https://nationalwca.org/caucuses/

JWAN (Jewish Women’s Artist Network): Panel chaired by Reva Solomon, “The Role of Art and Artists Play in the Wake of Increased Anti-Semitism - Part 2”

Piggybacking on the success and attendance at the 2019 JWAN panel at the NY Conference, we will host a continued panel discussion with established artists and again moderated by JWAN Chair/artist Reva Solomon. It was made clear by the panel presentation and audience participation that there was more to be talked about on this timely topic. Panelists TBA.

ECO-ART CAUCUS: Roundtable discussion with Marcia Wood Mertinooke, Eco-caucus chair, Dave Anthony, Plan It Change 10 co-founder and Gareth Reynolds, Plan It Change 10 co-founder

Plan It Change 10 is a project initiated by the prediction that we have ten years to change the course of climate change on our planet, and through the collaboration
of groups of artists we can make an impact in changing the perspective of those who seek to continue the forms of oppression causing it.

The effects of climate change are evident across gender, income, and geography. The history of ecofeminism has outlined and predicted our current situation. Through collaborative exchange, WCA and PC10 can create a combined compelling message of feminism and environmental action that will be more effective than singular effort.

The goal of this panel/discussion would be to identify our commonalities in climate change and to conceptualize and plan an art project expressing those ideas.

Discussion will begin by presenting current knowledge of climate change and its effects to the environment as a whole and to individuals.

Following will be open discussion to share concerns for climate change, the environment, structures of global destruction, and their impact on current society and the future. Using this, the group will identify the parts most compelling to build into a larger message. Participants will be asked to explore ideas to create a concept of conveying the larger message and build a plan of action that will be continued outside of the panel discussion through social media.

**YOUNG WOMEN’S CAUCUS (YWC)**: Program/Meeting in planning stage at this time.

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**EVENTS AT CAA**

**WCA/CAA Panel (at CAA, requires CAA ticket):**
“Amplifying Inclusion: Intersectional Feminism in Contemporary Curatorial Practice”
Chair: Sawyer Rose
Panelists: Tanya Augsburg, Priscilla Otani, Karen Gutfreund, Rosemary Meza-DesPles
Discussant: Maria Elena Buszek

**WCA Business Meeting (at CAA, open to all):**
“Inappropriate Bodies: Art, Design, and Maternity”
Chair: Rachel Epp Buller
Panelists: Charles Reeve, Niku Kashef