

the Davis.

DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VIVID POSTERS ADDRESSING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES ON VIEW IN EXHIBITION AT DAVIS MUSEUM AT WELLESLEY COLLEGE

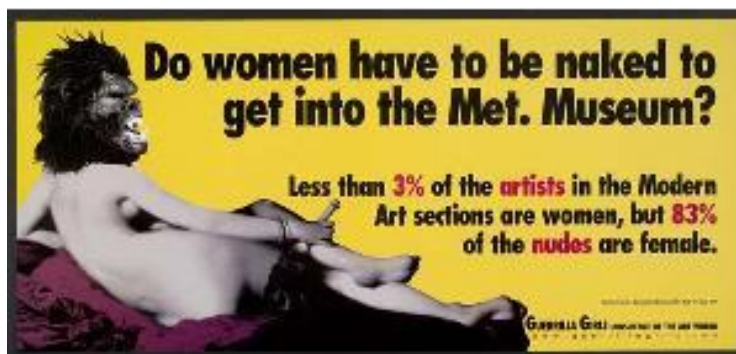


WELLESLEY, Mass. – The Davis Museum at Wellesley College presents *Artists Take Action! Recent Acquisitions from the Davis*, an exhibition of approximately 25 posters and prints addressing a variety of political and social issues. Works by Francisco de Goya, Shepard Fairey, Keith Haring, The Guerilla Girls, Sue Coe and others call attention to societal concerns, including sexism, racism, war, the AIDS epidemic, and climate change. The exhibition, co-curated by Meredith Fluke, Kemper Curator of Academic Exhibitions and Affairs, and Patricia Berman, Theodora L. and Stanley H. Feldberg Professor of Art, Wellesley College, will be on view in the Robert and Claire Freedman Lober Viewing Alcove Gallery from February 13 through June 10, 2018.

“Over the past decade, the Davis has built a collection of posters and prints—both historical and contemporary—that directly engage with political and social issues. Artists produce these works for a variety of motivations and audiences, but all seek to challenge the abuse of power,” said Meredith Fluke. “Although the works range in date over two centuries, all are still applicable in today’s political climate. One particularly prescient example is Rupert García’s 1973 *iCesen Deportación!*”

The historical moment in which each work was created varies. For example, some of the prints were sold to fund social causes, others were posted in public areas; some of the posters were carried at rallies, while others were distributed through collective portfolios and galleries. The selection historically contextualizes the artists while highlighting their shared impulse to protest social injustice and advocate for change, arguing that this ambition remains relevant for artists and collecting institutions today.

The exhibition is presented in conjunction with the Wellesley College seminar, [The Arts of Dissent](#), taught by collaborating faculty member, Patricia Berman. “The visual arts play a critical role in shaping identity and formulating opinion,” said Professor Berman. “The exhibition allows visitors to see—up-close—ways in which the visual arts are central features of social protest movements.”



Artists Take Action! will be accompanied by a Davis mobile app. Over the course of the semester, students from [The Arts of Dissent](#) will contribute content with their own interpretations of the works of art in the exhibition. The Davis app is available for download at <http://app.thedavis.org>.

Artists Take Action! Recent Acquisitions from the Davis is presented with generous support from The Mary Tebbetts Wolfe '54 Davis Museum Program Fund.

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Spring Opening Celebration

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

5:30 Keynote Lecture:

Collins Cinema

“The Poetry of the Everyday: Clarence H. White and the Creation of American Art Photography, 1895-1925”

Anne McCauley, David Hunter McAlpin Professor of the History of Photography and Modern Art, Princeton University, and curator of the exhibition, *Clarence H. White and His World*, will trace how a young man from Newark, Ohio, taught himself photography and within five years was exhibiting in London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and elsewhere. White’s melding of the ideals of Arts and Crafts movement and American socialism with the new demands of advertising and magazine illustration resulted in innovative compositions that defined what “modernism” in photography would be in the 20th century.

6:30 - 9 p.m. Reception

Davis Lobby and Galleries

Join the Davis to celebrate the opening of the Spring 2018 exhibitions: *Clarence H. White and His World: The Art and Craft of Photography, 1895-1925*; *Fragment: A Museum’s Mid-century Legacy*; *Soulful Stitching: Patchwork Quilts by Africans (Siddis) in India*; *Artists Take Action! Recent Acquisitions from the Davis*; *Intermezzi: The Inventive Fantasies of Max Klinger*; *Ria Brodell: Butch Heroes*; and *David Teng Olsen: Smoked My Head on Yes Waters*.

Gallery Talk: #Resist - Collecting Activist Art

Tuesday, April 10, 4 p.m.

Join Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director of the Davis Museum, in conversation with exhibition curator Meredith Fluke about building a collection of activist art, the rationale behind acquisitions, and the importance of exhibiting political art now.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College’s liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming— classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today’s leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena,

Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

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Image Credits:

Corita Kent, *The Cry That Will Be Heard* (1969)

Screenprint, Museum purchase, Erna Bottigheimer Sands (Class of 1929) Art Acquisition Fund 2008.4.

Image used with the permission of the Corita Arts Center, Los Angeles.

Guerrilla Girls, *Do women have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum?* (2005)

Poster, sheet: 11 in. x 24 in. (27.9 cm x 61 cm); image: 11 in. x 24 in. (27.9 cm x 61 cm)

Museum purchase, Barbara Nelson Rankin Fund 2007.147.

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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request