



Hitting Home

Representations of the Domestic Milieu in Feminist Art

14 – 17 November 2022

The politics of the home was often a focus in second-wave feminist art in the West. Influenced by Betty Friedan's *The Feminist Mystique* (1963), which challenged the notion that women were content to be wives, mothers and homemakers, artists often represented the domestic milieu as a space of oppression. But Friedan's ideas would be challenged by bell hooks who indicated that such perceptions simply assumed a woman who was middle-class and white. As hooks observed in *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* (1984), Friedan "did not tell readers whether it was more fulfilling to be a maid, a babysitter, a factory worker, a clerk, or a prostitute than to be a leisure-class housewife". It should also be noted that Friedan's views were shaped by a USA context specifically, and that the politics of home, domesticity, marriage or parenthood may be perceived very differently in geographies outside the United States or the West more generally.

This conference reconsiders how the home has been conceptualised in feminist art practices, both historical and recent. It engages with how the domestic environment and its politics have been explored in feminist works from outside the West as well as enabling the articulation of new perspectives on the conception of the domestic milieu by feminist artists operating within Western contexts. It interprets "the domestic environment" or "the home" in a broad sense, with the theme encompassing not only the politics of household labour but also family relationships and interactions as well as events structuring and changing domestic life such as marriage and childbirth.

Format and Timing

This is an online conference via Zoom. The schedule is in South African Standard Time.

Acknowledgements

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PROGRAMME

14 November 2022

09:15 – 09:30 WELCOME

Media and Materialities Constructions of Home in Feminist Video

09:30 – 10:15 Paper 1
Susanne Watzenboeck
L'unico movimento è il ritorno: Constanze Ruhm's La Strada (è ancora) più lunga.

10:15 – 11:00 Paper 2
Roxy Do Rego
Labour, Love, or Violence? Farieda Nazier's *Don't Make Me Over* (2021).

11:00 – 11:30 BREAK

Media and Materialities: Constructions of Home in Feminist Needlework

11:30 – 12:15 Paper 3
Karen von Veh
Breaking 'the Law of the Father': Linda Rademan's transgressive engagements with Afrikaner patriarchy in the home.

12:15 – 13:00 Paper 4
Lexington Davis
Stitched Violence: Annegret Soltau's and Annette Messenger's Subversive Textiles.

13:00 – 15:00 BREAK

15:00 – 15:45 Paper 5
Debra Hanson
At Home in Harlem: Home, Family and the Politics of Domesticity in Faith Ringgold's *The Bitter Nest*.

Media and Materialities: Constructions of Home in Feminist Photography

15:45 – 16:30 Paper 6
Estelle McDowall
Homeless at home: violence and displacement in Jodi Bieber's *Women who have murdered their husbands* (2005).

16:30 – 17:15 Paper 7
Kim Miller
South African Apartheid and the Condition of Home: Sue Williamson's Portraits of Women.

17:15 – 17:45 BREAK

The Politics of Maternity

17:45 – 18:30 Online guided tour of the exhibition, *The Harbingers*, at 33 Twickenham Avenue by the artist, Christine Dixie.

PROGRAMME

15 November 2022

COVID-19 and Women's Art Practices

- 09:00 – 09:45 Paper 8
Jacqueline Milner
Home is where the art is: artistic practice in the wake of the pandemic.

The Politics of Cleaning and Cleansing

- 09:45 – 10:30 Paper 9
Catharina de Klerk
A feminist reframing of domestic labour relationships through Sunlight soap in Sarel Petrus's *Sentimental block* (2017).

10:30 – 11:00 BREAK

- 11:00 – 11:45 Paper 10
Shoni Netshia
The broom as a signifier of femininity and domesticity in South African homes, traditional African wedding ceremonies, and marriage: Unpacked through Usha Seejarim's *Transgressing Power*.

- 11:45 – 12:30 Paper 11
Dineke van der Walt
Cleansing shame: Airing South Africa's Dirty Laundry.

12:30 – 14:30 BREAK

Gendered Spaces – Kitchens and Swimming Pools

- 14:30 – 15:15 Paper 12
Irene Bronner
Below the surface: Swimming pools in recent South African art practice.

- 15:15 – 16:00 Paper 13
Erika Brandl
Returning to Carrie Mae Weems' kitchen: on framed privacy and the value-laden theatre of homes.

16:00 – 16:30 BREAK

Challenging Normative Constructs of the Nuclear Family

- 16:30 – 17:15 Paper 14
Elena Zanichelli
All together now? Family images in postfamilial times.

- 17:15 – 18:00 Paper 15
Christian Liclair
Lesbian Domesticity between Queer Home- and World-Making: Photography and US-American Lesbian Separatist Communities.

PROGRAMME

16 November 2022

Gendered Contexts: Women and Home in Turkey

10:15 – 11:00 Paper 16
Burcu Bakö
The cinematic representation of women's experiences of home in Istanbul in the 2000s.

11:00 – 11:45 Paper 17
Nergis Abiyeva and Ceren Özpınar
Inside the Red Mansion: Home, Sisterhood, and Füsun Onur's Art.

Gendered Contexts: Women and Home in Poland

11:45 – 12:30 Paper 18
Karolina Rosiejka
In between: from the century of national uprisings through communist era to nowadays: Polish herstory in artistic visions of Elżbieta Jabłońska.

12:30 – 15:00 BREAK

15:00 – 15:45 Paper 19
Basia Sliwinska
Joanna Rajkowska's *Rhizopolis* (2021): an imaginary biotopic home as a rhizomatic collective of human and other-than-human co-dependencies.

15:45 – 16:30 Paper 20
Caroline Lillian Schopp
Alina Szapocznikow's Herbarium: Intimate Ecologies of the Domestic.

16:30 – 17:00 BREAK

Book Launch

17:00 – 18:30 Discussion of *Iconic Works of Art by Women: Feminists and Gender Activists: Mistress Pieces* (London and New York: Routledge, 2021).

PROGRAMME

17 November 2022

Women Displaced or Estranged from Home

- 09:00 – 09:45 Paper 21
Virginia Marano
Being (not) at Home in the World – Exiled Women Artists and Beyond .
- 09:45 – 10:30 Paper 22
Clara Zarza
Material Worlds as Estranged Homes.
- 10:30 – 11:00 BREAK
- 11:00 – 11:45 Paper 23
Maria Photiou
Re-claiming the Lost Home: The Politics of Nostalgia and Belonging in Women's Art Practices in the Middle East.
- 11:45 – 12:30 Paper 24
Bontle Tau and Karen Ferreira-Meyers
A Transcontinental Legacy of Two Homes: From Africa to Europe. From Europe to Africa.

12:30 – 14:30 BREAK

Refusing Constructs of Incapacity and Otherness

- 14:30 – 15:15 Paper 25
Saray Espinosa
Casa: the domestic space in the practices of women artists in the late-dictatorship era in Spain and Portugal.
- 15:15 – 16:00 Paper 26
Andrea Fitzpatrick
The Freedoms of Home: Gender and (Inter)Subjectivity in Contemporary Iranian Art.

16:00 – 16:30 BREAK

Making Home: Perspectives by Practitioners

- 16:30 – 17:15 Paper 27
Sarita Ranchod
The Personal and Political – Sculptural Explorations of Cape Slavery through A Place Called Home.
- 17:15 – 18:00 Paper 28
Natalie Bruvels
Cat Attack Collective's Roblox Family Portraits.