

**Helen Day Art Center
Press Release
For Immediate Release**



RECLAMATION \ ,re-klə-'mā-shən \ June 15 - Sept 8, 2018

ARTISTS INCLUDE: (PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT) LEE PRICE | DARYL ZANG
CANDICE CHOVANEC | MARGARET BOWLAND | KATIE O'HAGAN | HUNG LIU
ADDITIONALLY: ERIN ANDERSON | COLLEEN BARRY | ALEAH CHAPIN | ELLEN COOPER
JENNY DUBNAU | KYRIN HOBSON | NANCY HOLLINGHURST | SYLVIA MAIER
DOMINIQUE MEDICI | ALICE NEEL | KAREN OFFUTT

Reclamation / ,reklə 'māSH(ə)n/

June 15 - September 8, 2018

Opening Reception: June 15th, 5:00 - 7:00pm

Public Programs:

Reclamation / ,reklə 'māSH(ə)n/ TALKS Saturday, August 4, 7pm

The **Reclamation / ,reklə 'māSH(ə)n/ TALKS** at Spruce Peak Performing Arts in Stowe, VT is inspired by the exhibition **Reclamation / ,reklə 'māSH(ə)n/**. These talks build upon the national conversation sparked by the #MeToo movement. In the talks, speakers will explore their perspective on the topic of *Women and Power* including body positivity, media literacy, art history, and how gender bias impacts women's lives, with the art world as one arena.

Panel Discussion comprised of artists, curator, and an art historian TBA

Film Series in the West Gallery

This exhibition of film is curated by Rachel Moore, and in collaboration with Stowe Story Labs, Scout Film Festival, and other directors and filmmakers. It will present women in film as active participants, engaging in non-stereotypical roles that support body positivity, gender balance, women in power, etc.

Helen Day Art Center

90 Pond Street

Stowe, Vermont USA

Hours: Wednesday - Sunday 12pm-5pm and by appointment

Free and open to the public

helenday.com

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Stowe, Vermont - This summer, the Helen Day Art Center (HDAC) will host a new exhibit June 15 - September 8, 2018, **Reclamation** /*reklə 'māSH(ə)n/*, curated by Diane Feissel (Artist and Co-founder of the Women Painting Women Blog), Rachel Moore (Director of the Helen Day Art Center), and August Burns (Artist). The exhibition will feature portraits of women by nationally-acclaimed female figurative painters, with work reflecting the artists' personal perspectives and experiences.

Reclamation builds on the Women Painting Women movement. Started in 2009 by three artists who recognized how few women artists were being shown in galleries while paintings of women by men abounded, they decided provide a space for women's art and to explore how women depict women as subjects of their art. The project caught fire and has grown to include more than a dozen gallery and museum exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad.

With this latest iteration, we are making a strong statement to claim artspace for women and reclaim the way women are portrayed, depicting women as active participants rather than as passive subjects. It will feature a contemporary approach to the centuries-old form of figurative art, in response to the long history of gender bias in figurative painting.

Gender bias in art is reflected in the numbers:

- Nationally, 51% of visual artists working today are women, yet women artists remain largely invisible, representing only 5% of all artworks in major museums in the U.S.
- Women are largely missing from art history books. Women who were famous during their careers, such as Cecilia Beaux, Artemisia Gentileschi or Angelica Kaufman to name a few, have been forgotten or omitted by art historians, who have been mostly male.
- When asked, few American can name more than 3 women artists.
- Women represent only about 30% of artists with gallery representation, a necessary step for a successful art career.
- Women artists earn 40-80 cents for every dollar made by male artists, and an average of \$20,000 less than their male counterparts across all art jobs.

The national conversation, sparked by the #MeToo movement, has the potential to change all segments of society, including the art world. **Reclamation** /*reklə 'māSH(ə)n/* promises to help move that conversation forward.

The show will feature contemporary figurative artists in the U.S. and Great Britain, including **Hung Lui, Margaret Bowland, Aleah Chapin, Lee Price, Colleen Barry,**

Dominique Medici, Nancy Hollinghurst, Jenny Dubnau, Candice Chanovec, Ellen Cooper, Kyrin Hobson, Katie O'Hagan, Karen Offutt, Sylvia Maier, Daryl Zang and Erin Anderson. The exhibition will also include two **Alice Neel** lithographs as homage to one of the most famous American figurative painters of the last century.

As artist Margaret Bowland has observed, women in our society “don the clothes, the makeup, the very sentence structure that will allow them to fit within the category of the desirable. ... I have often covered my subject in paint to make this point. I feel that I am doing what the world does to my subjects, tries to obliterate them or turn them into people they are not. For me, the victory is that my people stare back at you completely whole, completely themselves, ... learning to survive through what the world has thrown at them.”

Painter Lee Price has echoed this theme: “Most women are brought up to be givers. To nurture others at the expense of our own needs. We hide our appetites ... and then consume in secret. In my most recent works the women seem to be coming out of the closet. Eyeing the viewer—not censoring their hunger.”

The work in this exhibit will reflect extraordinary mastery of a most difficult artistic undertaking, figurative painting. In the words of Artist Colleen Barry, “The figurative art form is the highest and most challenging of all art forms, as well as the most intellectually probing.”

Reclamation /,ˌrɛkləˈmāSH(ə)n/ opens with a reception from 5-7pm on June 15, 2018, and runs through September 8. The project includes artist talks and panel discussions at the Helen Day Art Center as well as a series of TEDx Style talks on Women and Power at the Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center on August 4th.

Reclamation /,ˌrɛkləˈmāSH(ə)n/ TALKS

Saturday, August 4, 7pm

Reclamation /,ˌrɛkləˈmāSH(ə)n/ TALKS builds on the national conversation about the #MeToo movement, and is presented in partnership and inspired by the exhibition

Reclamation /,ˌrɛkləˈmāSH(ə)n/, at the Helen Day Art Center in Summer 2018.

Reclamation implies claiming something back or reasserting a right. It implies original ownership. In the TALKS, speakers will explore their perspective on the topic of Women and Power and how gender bias impacts women's lives, with the art world as one arena. Speakers will be announced beginning in June 2018.

Artists include: **Erin Anderson, Colleen Barry, Margaret Bowland, Aleah Chapin, Candice Chovanec, Ellen Cooper, Jenny Dubnau, Kyrin Hobson, Nancy Hollinghurst, Hung Liu, Sylvia Maier, Dominique Medici, Alice Neel, Katie O'Hagan, Karen Offutt, Lee Price, Daryl Zang**

Reclamation /,ˌrɛkləˈmāSH(ə)n/ is curated by

For more information on **Reclamation** /,ˌrɛkləˈmāSH(ə)n/ and related events, contact Rachel Moore, Director: director@helenday.com | +1 802 253 8358

Supporters of **Reclamation** /,ˈrɛklə ˈmāSH(ə)n/ to date include:

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