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The Women's Caucus for Art Announces the 2015 Lifetime Achievement and President's Art & Activism Awardees and plans for the Gala Celebration in New York.

The Women's Caucus for Art (WCA) is pleased to announce the recipients for the 2015 WCA Lifetime Achievement Awards: **Sue Coe, Kiki Smith, and Martha Wilson**. The recipient for the 2015 President's Art & Activism Award is **Petra Kuppers**.

The WCA Lifetime Achievement Awards were first presented in 1979 in President Jimmy Carter's Oval Office to Isabel Bishop, Selma Burke, Alice Neel, Louise Nevelson, and Georgia O'Keeffe. The Awards were the first awards recognizing the contribution of women to the arts and their profound effect on society.

Today, the Lifetime Achievement Awards continue to honor women, their work, their vision and their commitment. Recent honorees have represented the full range of distinguished achievement in the visual arts professions from Tina Dunkley to Judy Chicago to Carolee Schneemann to Phyllis Bramson. This year's awardees are no exception, with considerable accomplishment, achievement, and contributions to the visual arts represented by their professional efforts.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Awards, the President's Art & Activism Award is presented each year to emerging or mid-career women whose life and work exemplifies WCA's mission of creating community through art, education, and social activism. The award anticipates a lifetime of achievement for its recipients.

Please join us for the Awards celebration on **Thursday February 12, 2015** in New York, New York. The Awards celebration will be held at the New York Institute of Technology Auditorium at 1871 Broadway, New York, New York. The gala events will kick-off with a ticketed cocktail reception from 5:30-7:00pm. The ticketed reception will include three food stations, butlered treats, an open bar, and the opportunity to congratulate the awardees. The Awards ceremony (free and open to the public) will take place from 7:30-9:00pm and a coffee and dessert reception will follow from 9:00-10:00pm. The celebration is held during the annual Women's Caucus for Art and College Art Association conferences.

For more information on the event or to purchase tickets visit www.nationalwca.org

About the Women's Caucus for Art

The Women's Caucus for Art was founded in 1972 in connection with the College Art Association (CAA). WCA is a national member organization unique in its multidisciplinary, multicultural membership of artists, art historians, students, educators, and museum professionals.

The mission of the Women's Caucus for Art is to create community through art, education, and social activism. WCA is committed to recognizing the contribution of women in the arts; providing women with leadership opportunities and professional development; expanding networking and exhibition opportunities for women; supporting local, national and global art activism; and advocating for equity in the arts for all.

As an NGO (non-governmental organization) of the United Nations, the Women's Caucus for Art actively supports the UN Millennium Goals. WCA utilizes art as the universal language to engage artists, NGOS, and civil society on a broad range of issues such as gender equity and environmental sustainability.

As a founding member of the Feminist Art Project, WCA is part of a collaborative national initiative celebrating the Feminist Art Movement and the aesthetic, intellectual and political impact of women on the visual arts, art history, and art practice, past and present.

For more information on the WCA you can visit our website: www.nationalwca.org

For an array of essays about WCA, download the 2012 40th Anniversary and Honor Awards Catalog: <http://nationalwca.org/LTA/LTA2012.pdf>

2015 Lifetime Achievement Honorees



Sue Coe is considered one of the foremost political artists working today. Born in England in 1951, she moved to New York in the early 1970s. In the years that followed, she was featured on the cover of *Art News* and in numerous museum exhibitions, including a retrospective at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington. In 2013 she was awarded the prestigious Dickinson College Arts Award in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. A firm believer in the power of the media to effect change, Coe has seen her work published in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone* and countless other periodicals. Similarly, Coe sees printmaking as a way to reach a broad audience. Accessible and affordable, Sue Coe's etchings, lithographs and woodcuts have become extremely popular.

Over the course of a career spanning more than forty years, Coe has consistently focused on the oppression of the weak by the strong. Her seminal 1983 book *"How to Commit Suicide in South Africa"* was used as an anti-apartheid organizing tool on college campuses nationwide. She followed up with a pictorial biography of Malcolm X, X, in 1986. The catalogue for her 1987

traveling retrospective, *"Police State,"* and her 2004 book *"Bully! Master of the Global Merry-Go-Round"* both document political tyranny.

Coe has spent two decades investigating the atrocities committed by people against animals. She warned, early on, of the dangers inherent in genetically modified crops, the environmental costs of meat production and the extreme cruelty entailed in factory farming. Her publications on these subjects include *Dead Meat* (1996), *Pit's Letter* (2000), *Sheep of Fools...A Song Cycle for Five Voices* (2005), *Cruel* (2013) and *The Ghosts of Our Meat* (2013).

Photograph of Sue Coe by Steve Heller. Courtesy Galerie St. Etienne, New York.



Kiki Smith (b.1954, Nuremberg, Germany) is an artist of international recognition whose career has spanned over three decades. She is a leading figure among artists addressing the human condition, the body, and the realms of spirituality and nature in work spanning mediums from sculpture and printmaking to installation and textiles.

Smith's many accolades include, most recently, the U.S. State Department Medal of Arts given by Hillary Clinton (2012), Theo Westenberger Women of Excellence Award (2010); Nelson A. Rockefeller Award, Purchase College School of the Arts (2010); Women in the Arts Award, Brooklyn Museum (2009) and the 50th Edward MacDowell Medal (2009), among many others. Smith was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York in 2005. In 2006 *TIME Magazine* named her one of the *"TIME 100: The People Who Shape Our World."*

Kiki Smith lives and works in New York City.

She has been represented by Pace Gallery since 1994.

Photo of Kiki Smith by Erik Madigan Heck.



Martha Wilson (b. 1947) is a pioneering feminist artist and gallery director, who over the past four decades created innovative photographic and video works that explore her female subjectivity through role-playing, costume transformations, and “invasions” of other people’s personae. She began making these videos and photo/text works in the early 1970s while in Halifax in Nova Scotia, and further developed her performative and video-based practice after moving in 1974 to New York City, embarking on a long career that would see her gain attention across the U.S. for her provocative appearances and works.

In 1976 she also founded and continues to direct Franklin Furnace, an artist-run space that champions the exploration, promotion and preservation of artists’ books, installation art, video, online and performance art, further challenging institutional norms, the roles artists play within society, and expectations about what constitutes acceptable art mediums.

Wilson, a native of Newtown, Pennsylvania, who has lived in New York since 1974, is esteemed for both her solo artistic production and her maverick efforts to champion creative forms that are “vulnerable due to institutional neglect, their ephemeral nature, or politically unpopular content.”

As a performance artist she founded and collaborated with DISBAND, the all-girl punk conceptual band of women artists who can’t play any instruments, and impersonated political figures such as Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush and Tipper Gore. In 2008 she had her first solo exhibition in New York at Mitchell Alguo Gallery, “Martha Wilson: Photo/Text Works, 1971-74.” In 2009, “*Martha Wilson: Staging the Self*,” an exhibition of Ms. Wilson’s early photo/text work and one project from each of Franklin Furnace’s first 30 years, began international travel under the auspices of ICI (Independent Curators International); and in 2011, ICI published the *Martha Wilson Sourcebook: 40 Years of Reconsidering Performance, Feminism, Alternative Spaces*. Martha Wilson joined P.P.O.W Gallery, New York, and mounted a solo exhibition, “*I have become my own worst fear*,” in September 2011.

Photo of Martha Wilson by Christopher Milne..

2015 President’s Awardee for Art & Activism



Petra Koppers is a disability culture activist, a community performance artist, and a Professor at the University of Michigan. She also teaches on Goddard College’s Low Residency MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts. She leads The Olimpias, a performance research collective (www.olimpias.org).

Her most recent monograph *Disability Culture and Community Performance: Find a Strange and Twisted Shape* (Palgrave, 2011, paperback 2013) explores The Olimpias’ arts-based research methods. She is the author of a new textbook, *Studying Disability Arts and Culture: An Introduction* (Palgrave, 2014).

Her earlier books include *Disability and Contemporary Performance: Bodies on Edge* (Routledge, 2003), *The Scar of Visibility: Medical Performance and Contemporary Art* (Minnesota, 2007) and *Community Performance: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2007). Edited work includes *Somatic Engagement* (2011), and *Community*

Performance: A Reader (2007).

