



WOMEN'S  
CAUCUS  
for ART

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Women's Caucus for Art announces the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Honorees and plans for the celebration on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash at Columbia College Chicago in Chicago, IL.**

The Women's Caucus for Art (WCA) is pleased to announce the recipients for the 2020 WCA Lifetime Achievement (LTA) Awards: **Joyce Fernandes, Michiko Itatani, Judy Onofrio, Alison Saar and Judith Stein**. The recipient for the 2020 President's Art & Activism Award is **Rose B. Simpson**.

The celebration kicks off on the evening of Saturday February 15 with a ticketed cocktail reception from 5:30-7:15pm. Guests purchasing reception tickets will be treated to food stations, butlered treats, an open bar, and the opportunity to meet and congratulate the awardees. Tickets will be available for purchase beginning October 28, 2019. To purchase tickets: <http://nationalwca.org/applicants/raffle.php>

The Awards ceremony celebrating the life and work of these extraordinary women in the arts takes place immediately following the ticketed reception from 7:30-9:00pm and is free and open to the public. Doors for the awards ceremony will open to the general public beginning at 7:15pm.

The annual Women's Caucus for Art Lifetime Achievement Awards is held during the Women's Caucus for Art and College Art Association conferences. For more information on the event or to purchase tickets visit [www.nationalwca.org](http://www.nationalwca.org) beginning Monday, October 28, 9:00am EST.

**About the Awards**

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 Charlene Teters to Kiki Smith to Carolee Schneemann to Renee Stout. For more information on past honorees visit: <https://www.nationalwca.org/awards/pasthonorees.php> This year's honorees 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.

## 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients



As an artist, writer and cultural worker in the city of Chicago, **Joyce Fernandes** has developed a practice that values creativity and equity as drivers of change. She built the nonprofit Archtreasures to support community-based projects in neighborhoods throughout Chicago, partnering artists with residents to make livable places sparked with art and culture.

Earlier in her career Fernandes worked as Director of Exhibitions and Events at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago where she sought to create an intellectually stimulating and equitable environment for the School's community. When that community was threatened by two deeply divisive controversies, the removal of a student painting of Mayor Harold Washington by CPD officers and the intense protest of Dread Scott Tyler's artwork, *What is the Proper Way to Display a US Flag?*, Fernandes stood strong in support of First Amendment Rights, although stunned by a new awareness of America's deep cultural divides. Since those experiences, Fernandes has devoted her career to bridging divisions of race and class within the arts and within the city of Chicago.

As Program Director of Sculpture Chicago, she curated a temporary public art exhibition, *Re-inventing the Garden City*, commissioning new artworks developed in partnership with Chicago Park District communities. As a freelance curator, she produced *Chicago Portraits* for Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs, a project that sought to create bridges between Chicago's diverse cultural communities. Currently, Fernandes is working on a book and building a new studio.



**Michiko Itatani's** work has been seen in solo exhibitions at the Alternative Museum, New York City (1985); Rockford Art Museum, Illinois (1987); Musée du Quebec, Canada (1988); Chicago Cultural Center (1992); Wright Museum of Beloit College, Wisconsin (1994); Nexus Contemporary Art Center, Atlanta (1995); Shinjuku Park Tower Gallery, Tokyo (1996); Tokoha Museum, Shizuoka, Japan (1998); Indianapolis Art Center, Indiana (1998); Frauen Museum, Bonn, Germany (2000); University of Wyoming Art Museum, WY(2002); Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, MO (2003), South Bend Museum of Art, IN (2014).

Her works are in numerous corporate, public, and private collections, including those of The Art Institute of Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Olympic Museum, Switzerland; Villa Haiss Museum, Germany; Musée du Quebec, Canada; Museu D'art Contemporani (MACBA), Barcelona; Musée du Quebec, Canada; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea; Hyogo Art Museum, Japan.

Michiko Itatani has been a professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago from 1979. She has taught at many other institutions, including Maine College of Art, Portland, Maine; Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh; California State University, Long Beach; San Francisco Art Institute; University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern University; SACI, Florence, Italy; Hospital Field Summer School, Scotland; University of Bonn, Germany; Royal College of Art, London; China National Academy of Fine Arts, Hangzhou, China; Osaka University of Art, Tokyo University of Art, Japan.

She has received many fellowships and awards including Illinois Arts Council Artist's Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Marie Sharp Walsh New York Studio Grant and John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship.



**Judy Onofrio** invented herself as an artist and in the process enriched the whole of Minnesota cultural life. Her art education was a result of her insatiable curiosity and independent spirit. As she forged her own way, she sought out art at every opportunity; artists were her friends, mentors and collaborators.

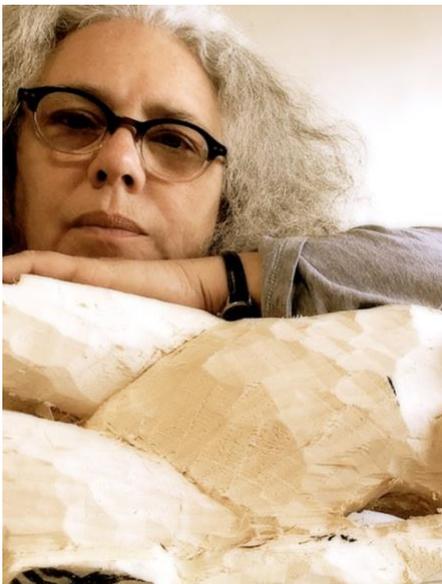
Beginning with ceramics in the 1970s, Judy Onofrio moved through a wide range of materials and exploration of form. She has created large-scale installations, sculptural fire performances and elaborately carved and obsessively embellished sculpture. Her most recent works are monumental and made entirely of bone. They speak to the transitory nature of life.

Onofrio's dedication to Minnesota's art community has been a lifelong focus. She was the founding director of the Minnesota Crafts Council, served as Acting Director of the Rochester Art Center and founded the highly regarded children's Total Art Day Camp at the Rochester Art Center.

In 2005, Onofrio was awarded The McKnight Foundation

Distinguished Minnesota Artist Award in recognition of her ongoing contribution as an artist and educator. She is a recipient of the Rochester Art Center Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2018 A.P. Anderson Award and the Minnesota Crafts Council Lifetime Achievement Award. Grants and fellowships include, Minnesota State Arts Board, Arts Midwest/NEC, the Bush Foundation and the McKnight Foundation.

Her work is in found in the national and international collections including: The National Gallery of Art, Victoria, Australia; Arabia Museum Helsinki, Finland; The Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Renwick Gallery, The Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; The Museum of Arts and Design, New York, NY; The Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Frederick R. Weisman Museum, Minneapolis, MN and over 40 other museum and public collections.



**Alison Saar** creates artworks that frequently transform found objects to reflect themes of cultural and social identity, history, and religion. Saar was born in Los Angeles, California. She studied studio art and art history at Scripps College in Claremont, California, receiving a BA in art history in 1978. In 1981 she earned her MFA from the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles.

In 1983, Saar became an artist-in-residence at the Studio Museum in Harlem, incorporating found objects from the city environment. Saar completed another residency in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1985, which augmented her urban style with Southwest Native American and Mexican influences.

Saar received the United States Artist fellowship in 2012 and has also been awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and two national endowment fellowships,

Saar has exhibited at many galleries and museums including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Her art is represented in collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Baltimore Art Museum, the Modern

Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Saar's style encompasses a multitude of personal, artistic, and cultural references that reflect the plurality of her own experiences. Her sculptures, installations, and prints incorporate found objects including rough-hewn wood, old tin ceiling panels, nails, shards of pottery, glass, and urban detritus. The resulting figures and objects become powerful totems exploring issues of gender, race, heritage, and history.



**Judith E. Stein** is an art historian and curator of twentieth century art who has often written about feminism and women artists. Her 1981 doctoral thesis on the neoclassic iconography of Sappho was one of the first feminist dissertations in art history at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1973-1974, she helped organize Philadelphia Focus on Women in the Visual Arts (FOCUS), a month-long, city-wide celebration of art by women. An early editor of the Women's Caucus for Art newsletter (1975-1977) and a member of the WCA national advisory board (1979-1981), Stein began her career as an art critic for *Art in America* by reviewing Judy Chicago's first East Coast exhibition in 1974; a decade later she reviewed Chicago's Birth Project for the *New York Times Book Review*. Her study of Cecilia Beaux, the first woman to teach at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, was the first feminist discussion of the artist's work and career (*Feminist Art Journal*, Winter 1975-1976).

As chair of the College Art Association's Committee on Women in the Arts from 1992 to 1997, she initiated a series of awards to women in the arts. She served on the advisory board of

Philadelphia's Leeway Foundation for women artists, (1994-2002) and was the first curator of Leeway Founder Linda Alter's collection of art by American women artists. Stein wrote the keystone essay for *Making Their Mark: Women Artists Move into the Mainstream, 1970-1985*, (Abbeville, 1989) and "Collaboration," for *The Power of Feminist Art*, (Harry N. Abrams, 1994). She curated *The Likeness of Being: Contemporary Self-Portraits by Sixty Women* (DC Moore Gallery, New York, 2000), and co-curated *Picturing the Modern Amazon: The Hypermuscular Woman* (The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, 2000). *Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975* (University of Illinois Press, 2006) documents her career.

## 2020 President's Award Honoree for Art & Activism



**Rose B. Simpson** is a mixed-media artist, whose work addresses the emotional and existential impacts of living in the 21st century, an apocalyptic time for many analogue cultures. Her figures are often powerful matriarchs or elusively androgynous empaths who channel the spirits of high art, hiphop, lowrider attitudes, and long-lost ancestors of all kinds. Simpson comes from a tribe famous for the ceramics its women have produced since the 6th century AD. An apprentice to her mother, an acclaimed native artist, Simpson grew up expressing herself in three-dimensions. After a BFA in Studio Arts from the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), Simpson earned an MFA at the Rhode Island School of Design, where she was inspired by contemporary art and international artists such as Lee Bontecou, Alberto Giacometti and Marina Abramovic. Simpson's sculptures are in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Denver Art Museum, Princeton University Art Museum, Heard Museum (Phoenix AZ), Pomona College Museum of Art (Pomona CA), Peabody Essex Museum (Salem MA) and the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences (Charleston, WV). She is currently enjoying a solo show at The

Wheelwright Museum in Santa Fe, NM. Jessica Silverman Gallery's solo exhibition of Simpson's work opens October 29th, 2019.