

Carving Paths: Feminist Activist Artists From the 1960's - 1970's

Artist Bios

Suzanne Benton is a highly recognized metal mask maker, mask performance artist, printmaker, and painter. A trans-culturalist and Feminist pioneer with over 150 solo shows and representation in museums, and in private collections worldwide. Benton's feminist-based metal masks and mask tale performances led to art working travels and residencies in thirty-one countries worldwide. Her venues stretched from New York City to cities and villages in Africa, India, and Nepal, and philosophy and education- portals from Kolkata to Cambridge. A former Fulbright Scholar (India), she's received many grants and artist residencies, including at Harvard University, and hosting by the cultural arm of US Embassies. She is writing a memoir. <https://www.suzannebentonartist.com>

Cristina Biaggi, Ph.D. (born 1937., Switzerland) is an artist, writer and prehistorian. She has widely exhibited in the U.S., Europe and Australia. In addition to her figurative sculptures (and 2026 sculptural portrait of Jane Fonda), political and abstract collages, large outdoor sculptures, she has created a number of large outdoor sculptures. She has published five books: *Habitations of the Great Goddess*, *In the Footsteps of the Goddess*, *The Rule of Mars*, *Activism into Art into Activism into Art* and *Four Legs = Two*. Many articles which have appeared in various anthologies and publications. Marija Gimbutas was her mentor and friend and wrote an introduction to her first book. Her artwork is included in many collections including Jane Fonda's in L.A. and Sean Scully's in N.Y. <https://www.cristinabiaggi.com>

Betsy Damon (born 1940, New York) is an American ecofeminist artist whose work has been influenced by her activism in women's, gay, and environmental rights. Beginning in the 1970's, as a performance artist, she explored the connection between women and nature, often through covering herself with natural materials such as feathers and bark. Acting on her goal to eliminate sexism, she founded and directed the international organization, No Limits for Women Artists from 1980 to 2000. <https://www.betsydamon.com/>

Leila Daw (born 1940) Leila's art practice is rooted in feminist and environmental concerns, employing methods of cartography, aerial views, and visions of impending disasters. Her two, three, and four dimensional works utilize a wide variety of media including acrylic, metal leaf and foil, fiber, colored pencil, and skywriting. Recently, many of her pieces have been of Burmese shwe chi doe tapestry, a technique she learned in a series of residencies in SE Asia. Daw's works can be found as permanent installations in airports, libraries, and transportation corridors; in the collections of museums and universities, and in books. She is Professor Emerita, Massachusetts College of Art. <https://leiladaw.com>

Martha Edelheit (born 1931 in New York City) was a pioneer in the [feminist art](#) movement. She is known for her early works of [erotic art](#).^[6] She began painting male and female nudes in the early 1960s, and was in the vanguard of figurative work that would gain attention in following decades. In 1994 she moved to Sweden where she lived and worked till 2024. She now lives and works in NYC. She shows with Eric Firestone gallery. <https://marthaedelheit.com/>

Susan Grabel is a feminist, figurative, multimedia artist, curator, and arts organizer whose practice engages the social and political narratives of contemporary life through the human experience. Working across clay, handmade paper, printmaking, wood, and digital fabrication, she explores themes of gender, aging, alienation, consumerism, homelessness, confluence, grief, and loss. Her work has been exhibited extensively in galleries, universities, and museums throughout the United States and is held in numerous museum and private collections. A longtime advocate for women artists, Grabel is President of Ceres Gallery, New York, and has organized numerous exhibitions and programs addressing feminist issues and amplifying women's voices. <https://www.susangrabel.com/>

Susan Schwalb is a foremost figure in the silverpoint revival. Born in New York City in 1944, she studied at Carnegie-Mellon University. She's had 50+ solo exhibitions in galleries and museums world-wide. Her oeuvre ranges from drawings and artist books to paintings on wood panels. Her work is represented in most major public collections including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the National Gallery, Washington DC, The British Museum, London, and The Brooklyn Museum, NY. Schwalb showed in the historical metalpoint exhibition Drawing with Silver and Gold: From Leonardo to Jasper Johns, National Gallery of Art, Washington, and the British Museum in 2015. Her book, co-written with Tom Mazzullo, "Silverpoint and Metalpoint Drawing: A Complete Guide to the Medium", was published in 2019 by Routledge/Focal Press, UK. <http://www.susanschwalb.com/>