



Carnegie Art Museum

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carnegie Art Museum Presents

### ***An American Aesthetic Identity: Through the Eyes of American Women Artists***

The Ann H. Bittl Collection of American Women Artists

Exhibition Dates: September 12 - November 22, 2009

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 19th, 4-6 pm

sponsored in part by the Carnegie Art Museum Cornerstones

This exhibition is drawn from the Collection of collector and independent curator Ann H. Bittl, Art History Instructor at Ventura College. The exhibition explores the significant contributions women artists have made to an American aesthetic identity from the Colonial period of the 18th century until Post-modernism of the later half of the 20th century. Long overlooked in American art history until the past twenty years, this show presents examples in prints, paintings and sculpture of early American including California Women artists. Notable among the over fifty artists included are: Maxine Albro, Mary Cassatt, Helen Hyde, Anna Klumpke, Lois Lane, Helen Lundeborg, Alice Neel, Louise Nevelson, Mary Jane Peale, Niki de Saint-Phalle, and June Wayne.

The topics wrestled with by women artists in the exhibit mirror the nation's shifts in political power, economy, and the plight of the common person. Their works helping to define an American artistic visual identity reflect these topics such as: the American portrait; Creating History: The Landscape; Examining Genre; Women and Modernism; Women and Social Realism; Women of the WPA; Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Re-inventing the "Feminine"; and the Body Politic in Feminist art. The exhibition not only examines these artists as to their creative endeavors, but also the means by which they maintained their "feminine" ideal in spite of the different styles and movements in art of their particular era.

Also on exhibit is ***La Femme*** with works by California women artists including Ventura County from the Carnegie Art Museum's permanent collection. Among the artist represented are: Jessie Arms Botke, Elise Pogofksy Harris, Bobbie- Moline Kramer, Sylvia Torres, Linda Vallejo, Kim Kosai, Susan Stinsmuehlen-Amend, Nina Katchadourian, Angna Enters, Christine Brennan, Ginger Moore Maxwell and Grace Hartigan. Also showing is ***Face to Face*** highlighting the scope of portraits in the permanent collection in prints, photographs and paintings featuring Sherry Loehr, Kim Loucks, Hiroko Yoshimoto Harry Hurwitz and Darryl Curran and others. Face to Face has an accompanying student curriculum guide on the museum's website made possible by a grant from the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation.

### **Museum Hours**

Thurs – Sat 10 am – 5 pm

& Sun. 1-5 pm

closed holidays

suggested donation \$3 / members free



### **Gallery Talk:**

Collector / Curator Ann Bittl

Thursday, September 24 @ 6 pm

*Mother and Child, lithograph on paper by Alice Neel, 1982.  
Ann H. Bittl Collection.*

Visit our website for fall events [www.carnegieam.org](http://www.carnegieam.org)