



Press Release

October 2016

600 female-identifying New York artists gathered for historic group photo at Brooklyn Museum on October 23, 2016

Please download the high-res image of the group portrait here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/e33vaxp2vz1t7cq/AAJ7bpLrq0qRrgWNKQIO2T-a?dl=0>

Photo Credit: *Now Be Here #2, NYC*, 2016, Photo: Paola Kudacki, Courtesy Kim Schoenstadt, Shinique Smith, and the Brooklyn Museum, New York.

Event hashtag: #nowbeherenyc2016



New York: On Sunday October 23, 2016 at 11 am, 600 New York female and female-identifying contemporary artists gathered in the Brooklyn Museum's historic Beaux-Arts Court for the largest group portrait of artists ever taken in New York. *Now Be Here #2, NYC* was conceived by California-based Kim Schoenstadt, and its staging at the Brooklyn Museum marked the kickoff week of *A Year of Yes: Reimagining Feminism at the Brooklyn Museum* celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art.

Now Be Here #1, Los Angeles took place in August, gathering 733 female and female-identifying artists for a history-making group portrait to recognize the power and diversity of women artists practicing in Los Angeles; it was hosted by Hauser Wirth & Schimmel Gallery. The Los Angeles Times described the event: "While the project, at its heart, addresses difficult issues of female representation in the fine arts, the assembled group of artists couldn't have been more jubilant."

The Brooklyn Museum's iteration took place on Sunday, October 23, 2016, and portrayed an intergenerational and inclusive snapshot of New York's women and women-identifying

artists captured in the Museum's historic Beaux-Arts Court. Brooklyn Museum collection artist Shinique Smith and Schoenstadt have been working together as co-organizers of the event along with Carmen Hermo, Assistant Curator, Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, and Dana Gluck, Special Projects, at the Museum. The convening was shot by noted photographer Paola Kudacki, who captured the joyous group portrait, marking a moment in history for the museum and for the city's artist community. Each participating artist's name will be linked to their image in an online archive of those who were in attendance, and each will receive a digital copy of the portrait.

Shinique Smith, the New York-based artist who invited a wide network of local artists, responded: "We were all overwhelmed by the positive energy of the collective. I'm still processing it for myself; some of the women I spoke with afterwards were teary-eyed and grateful. New connections were made, old friendships were revived, and overall I think it will be a resonating moment for everyone who participated."

Kim Schoenstadt, artist and the creator of *Now Be Here*, reflected: "This was the second time the project has been realized. Each moment captures not only those who are in attendance but reminds me of those who have come before us and those who will come after. As Shinique said the moment is overwhelming but in a kind and gentle way. That artists saw each other, looked each other in the eye and were present together creates a real reminder to support one another. I'm honored to be able to realize the project in New York and work with the Brooklyn Museum."

Photographer Paola Kudacki, in the wake of the event, shared: "It was amazing to be involved in a project that gathers such an amazing group of women that are creative that live in New York. The energy of these women celebrating their passion was very inspiring. The architecture is incredible; the artists are surrounded in the space by history. The layers of the project are what stand out in my mind. I'm very honored to have this opportunity!"

Co-organizer of the event and Special Projects at the Brooklyn Museum, Dana Gluck said: "The Brooklyn Museum cannot imagine a more perfect, joyful kick-off to our *Year of Yes* programs. It sets the energetic tone for the exciting and groundbreaking year we have ahead. There's so much incredible work being done at the Museum right now, specifically with regard to new definitions and expressions of feminism, and we're grateful to experience the artist community's warm embrace. "

Co-organizer and curator of the Brooklyn Museum iteration Carmen Hermo, said: "I was inspired to bring this project to the Brooklyn Museum not only because of the visual impact of Kim's Los-Angeles based portrait—so joyous! so undeniably powerful!— but also because of the project's core gesture: remembering and archiving those who stood together and represented women and female-identifying artists in New York. It's a powerful and human monument to women artists. I was so happy that, after an event full of old friends catching up, inter-generational introductions, and new connections being made, so many of these artists went up to the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art to experience the *Beverly Buchanan—Ruins and Rituals* exhibition. Buchanan was an artist interested in questioning historical memory and connecting memory to place, so the exhibition and this event cohered beautifully to kick off an exciting year at the Museum."

About Shinique Smith

Born 1971 in Baltimore, Maryland, Shinique Smith now lives and works in Upstate New York. Her painting and sculptural work is inspired by the vast nature of 'things' that we consume and discard, which resonate on a personal and social scale. Smith's work has also been exhibited in numerous exhibitions at prestigious venues such as The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA; Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY; Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, Madison, WI; The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx, NY; The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington DC; The Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, TN; The New Museum, New York, NY; MOMA/PS1, Long Island City, NY; The Studio Museum in Harlem, Harlem, NY, among others.

About Kim Schoenstadt

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Kim Schoenstadt lives and works in Venice, California. Her work has been included in national and international exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, IL; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands; Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT; Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA, and the Prague Biennale, 2005, among others. In 2016, Schoenstadt presented 'Sightline Construction Series,' and her conceptual project, 'Book Truck #1,' at Chimento Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA. She is represented by Chimento Contemporary, Los Angeles, CA, and Galerie Sabine Knust, Munich, Germany.

About Paola Kudacki

Paola Kudacki was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina lives and works in New York. She graduated as a Graphic Designer at Panamericana of Art and Design in Buenos Aires. Her career has been diverse, from photography to directing. Her work has been published in prestigious magazines such as *Time*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *ID*, *GQ*, *Paper* among others. Her work has been exhibited in galleries in Germany, Great Britain, Argentina among others.

About the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art

The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art is a nexus for feminist art, theory, and activism. It is the permanent home of *The Dinner Party* by Judy Chicago, its Feminist Art and Herstory galleries display critically acclaimed exhibitions, and its Forum is a venue for lectures and a platform of advocacy for women's issues.

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