

Difference?

Works Drawn Primarily from the DMA's Collection Exploring the Art of Contemporary Women Artists Produced over the Past Fifty Years

The Dallas Museum of Art presents *Difference?*, an exhibition that explores work produced by contemporary artists over the past fifty years and includes approximately seventy works of art drawn exclusively from the Museum's holdings and private collections in Dallas. On view October 19, 2012, through March 17, 2013, the works in all media created by artists of all ages and nationalities that comprise this exhibition are defined by a single commonality: the gender of their maker.

"*Difference?* provides visitors with an opportunity to experience our internationally recognized contemporary art collection while posing a question on the significance, or lack of significance, gender plays in art," said Maxwell L. Anderson, The Eugene McDermott Director of the DMA.

The term *difference* has many meanings, both simple and complex. In its simplest form, it describes a state of things being different, dissimilar, or somehow unequal. The French expression *vive la différence*, which translates literally as "long live the difference," has always referred to celebrating the difference between the sexes. In the 1970s, feminist scholars (particularly literary theorists) in both France and the United States focused on the word as a celebration of women's difference central to a better understanding of how stereotypes played a negative role in the debate around gender and racial liberation.

"The many exhibitions we present throughout the Museum each year are often organized around some guiding principle. A singular theme, set of associations, overarching idea, or common history brings those works together," stated Jeffrey Grove, The Hoffman Family Senior Curator of Contemporary Art at the DMA. "By drawing attention to the fact that there is only one thing these artists have in common, we ask the viewer to consider not only 'What is the difference?' but also 'Does it matter?'"

The exhibition highlights well-known works in the collection, such as Lee Krasner's 1968 *Pollination* and Dorothea Tanning's 1979 *Pincushion to Serve as Fetish*, alongside recent acquisitions that have previously never been on view. Two works that entered the collection earlier this year by Japanese artist Tsuruko Yamazaki, both titled *Work*, will be on view for the first time, as will Leslie Hewitt's *Untitled (Arc)* and *Untitled (Incandescent)*, and recent photographs by Marlo Pascual and Sara Vanderbeek.

Difference? is organized by the Dallas Museum of Art and curated by Jeffrey Grove. The presentation is made possible by TWO X TWO for AIDS and Art, an annual fundraising event that jointly benefits amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research and the Dallas Museum of Art. Additional support is provided by the Contemporary Art Initiative through the gifts of an anonymous donor, Arlene and John Dayton, Jennifer and John Eagle, Amy and Vernon Faulconer, Kenny Goss, Tim Hanley, Marguerite Steed Hoffman, The Karpidas Foundation, Janelle and Alden Pinnell, Allen and Kelli Questrom, Cindy and Howard Rachofsky, Catherine and William Rose, Deedie and Rusty Rose, Gayle and Paul Stoffel, and Sharon and Michael Young. Air transportation is provided by American Airlines.

About the Dallas Museum of Art

Established in 1903, the Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and groundbreaking educational programs. At the heart of the Museum and its programs is its global collection, which encompasses more than 24,000 works and spans 5,000 years of history, representing a full range of world cultures. Located in the vibrant Arts District of downtown Dallas, the Museum welcomes more than half a million visitors annually and acts as a catalyst for community creativity, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds with a diverse spectrum of programming, from exhibitions and lectures to concerts, literary events, and dramatic and dance presentations.

The Dallas Museum of Art is supported in part by the generosity of Museum members and donors and by the citizens of Dallas through the City of Dallas/Office of Cultural Affairs and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

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