



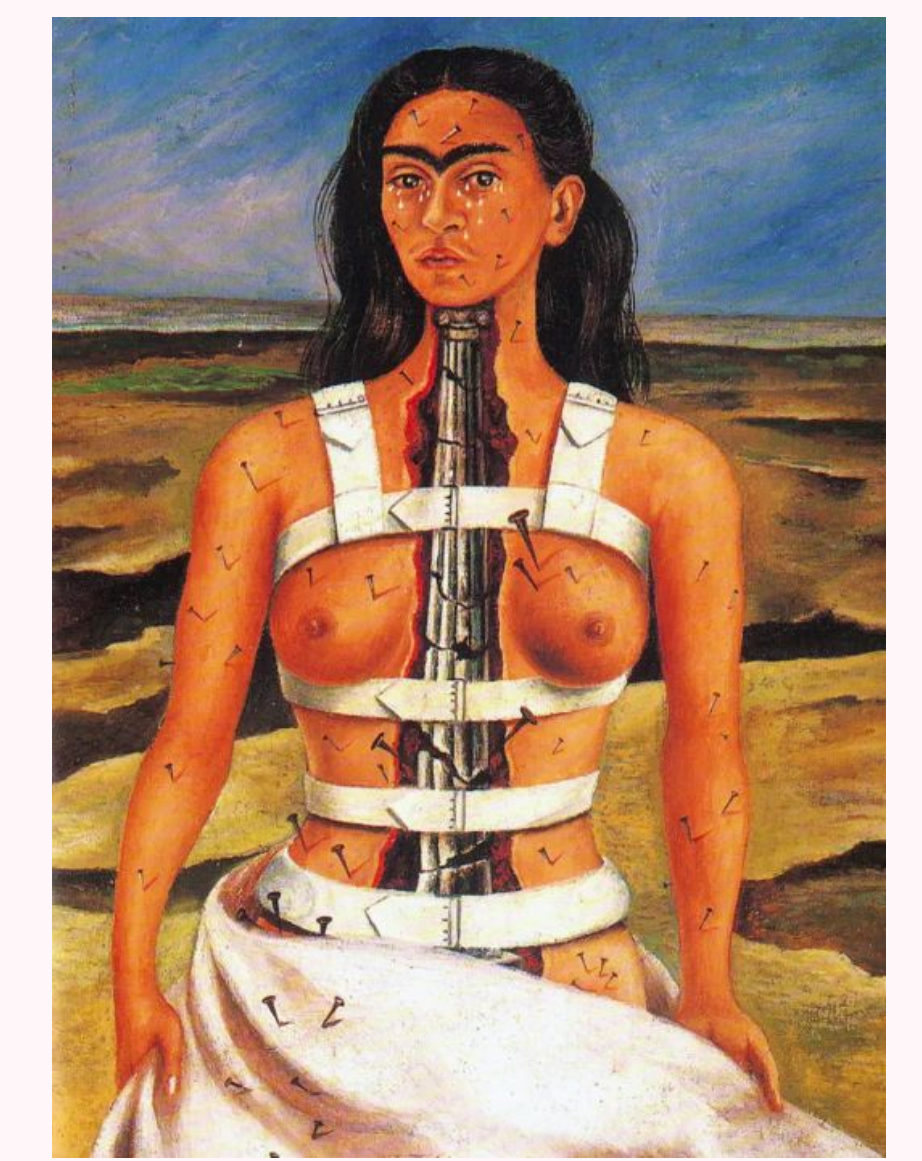
Art and Social Justice for Women

Rebecca Helft

Palo Alto High School

Introduction

- ★ "In recent decades, [progress for gender equality] has slowed or stalled." (England)
- ★ This is incredibly damaging for women
- ★ Because of its broad appeal and accessibility, art may be an effective tool to inspire action from the public
- ★ In the past art has been an effective tool for other social justice movements (such as the civil rights movement)



Broken Column, Frida Kahlo, 1944

Research Methodologies

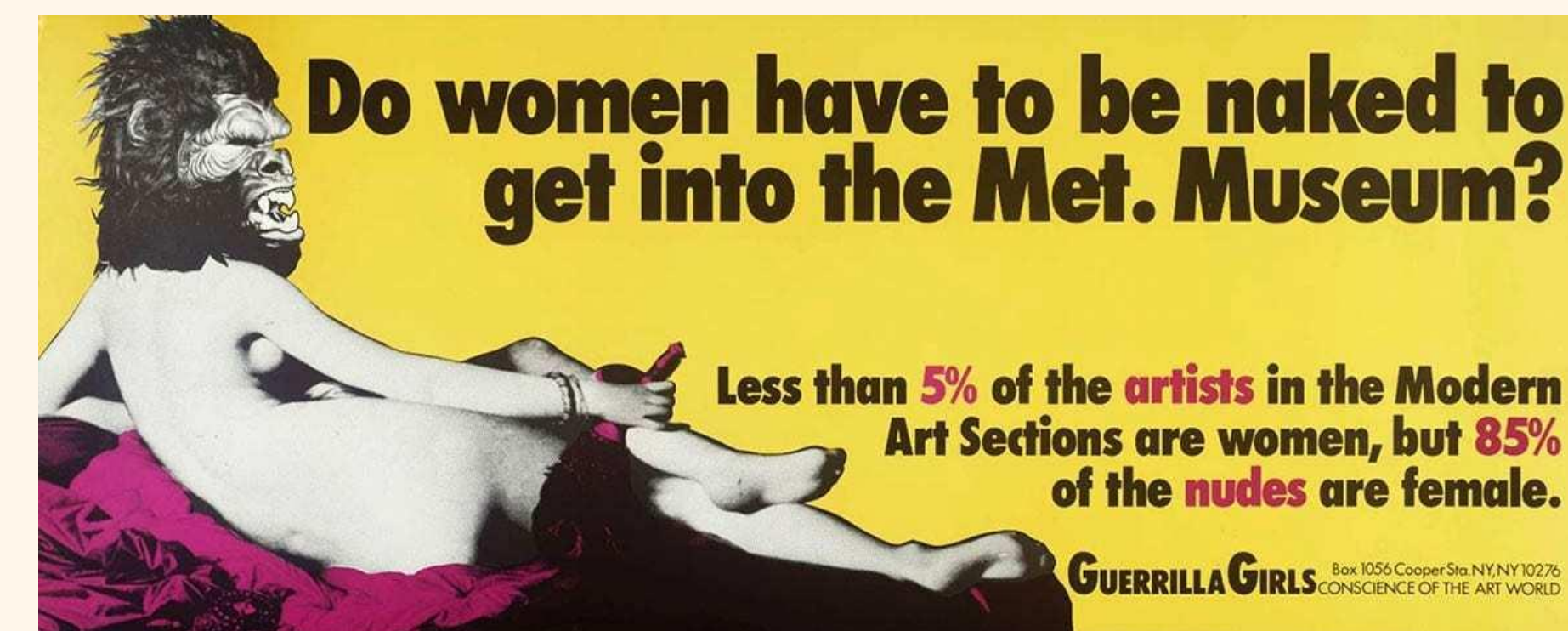
- ★ My inquiry approach for this project was a mix of historical evaluation, phenomenological, and content analysis
 - So that I could investigate if art can help combat gender discrimination
- ★ I collected my data by researching how art has or hasn't been an effective tool in the past
- ★ I used qualitative methods in my data sampling
 - Ex. reading articles, and books, listening to music, and analyzing artwork
- ★ I looked at a mix of primary (ex. a song, painting) and secondary sources (articles about said art)
- ★ I then analyzed these sources using thematic analysis

Data and Findings

There have been many examples of art, whether it calls itself "feminist" or not, having a positive impact on gender equality, and public interest in feminism. Examples range from the play A Doll's House by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, written in 1879 that follows "Nora, a wife beloved, [as she] abandons... her husband and sons to become herself and assert her dignity as human being" (Calvani) to "advertisements" featuring a nude woman with a gorilla head (1), first circulated in 1989 by the Guerilla Girls, to fight for more representation of female artists in art museums.



3. You Don't Own Me Lesley Gore, 1963



1. Do Women Have To Be Naked To Get Into the Met Museum? by Guerilla Girls, 1989



2. Judy Chicago, Dinner Party, 1979

- (2) A popular song in which the lyrics, unlike many other pop songs at the time, "urged women to be independent and to make choices that benefit them." (Ramnath)
- (3) Created by Judy Chicago imagining if "after centuries of being ignored, a group of female artists began to demand their rightful place in art institutions." (Escoto)

Conclusion

Art is an effective tool because it:

- ★ [Establishes]self-worth
- ★ [Helps recognize] the right to determining and having choices
- ★ [Gives] access to opportunities and resources
- ★ [Teaches you how to control] your own life
- ★ Posses[s]es the ability to influence social and economic change (Jernigan)

Time and time again art has proven to inspire those who consume it, whether it be to fight over dinner, as A Doll's House did in 1800's Scandinavia, (Calvani) or how Maryland "galvanised theatre makers all over Britain," (Cosslett.) And art can last, as the paintings of Frida Kahlo and the music of the suffragettes have, meaning that even long past its creation, it can continue to inspire countless generations to come.

Implications & Next Steps

Art should be utilized more by activists to fight for gender equality. In the future I would like to study just how to implement art more effectively in social justice settings, and if valuing art more, culturally, politically, etc, has a positive impact on equality across the board. I also wonder how art can be used in an educational setting to teach children about social justice issues, especially given how accessible it is.

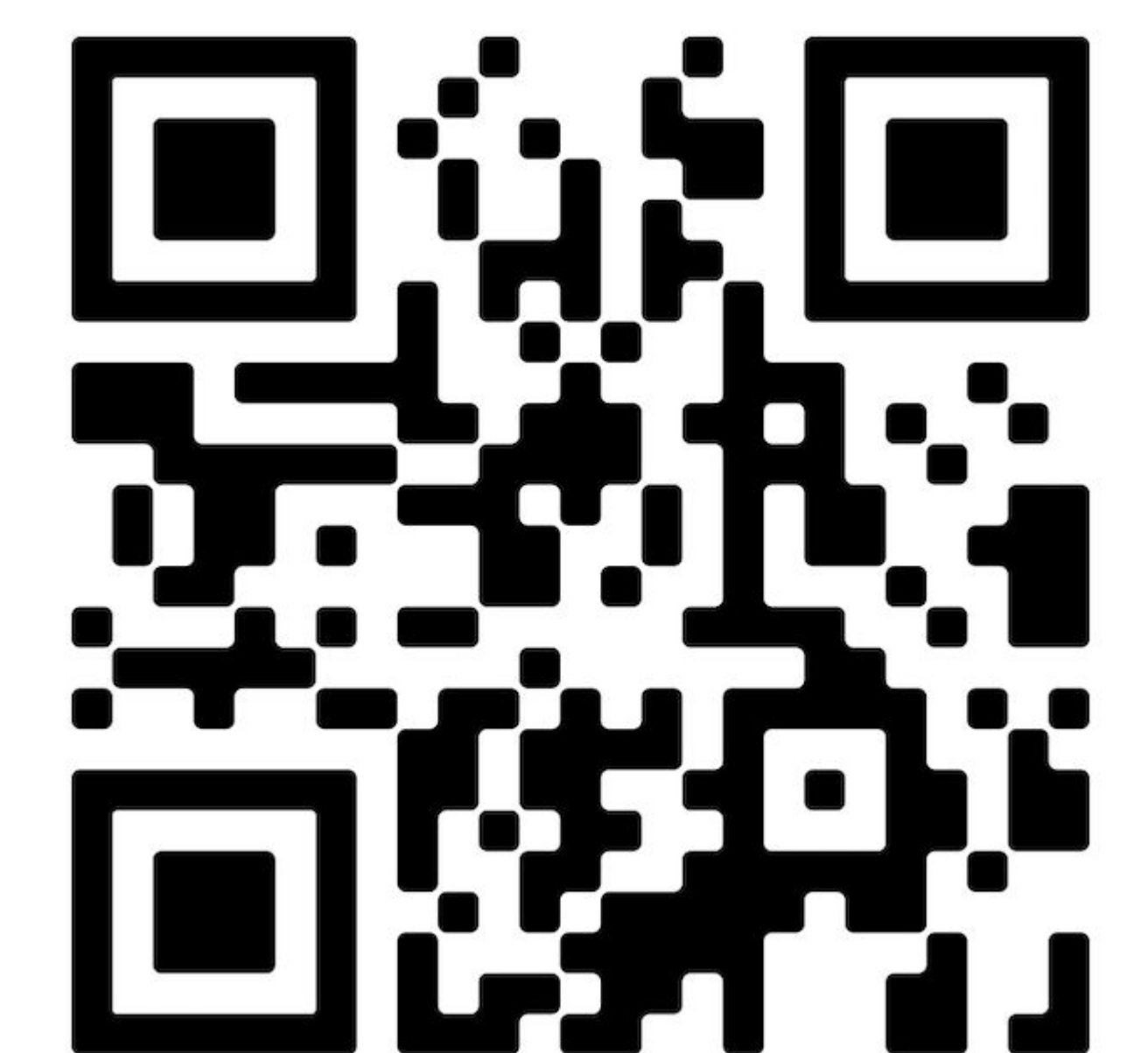


Some Living American Women Artists/Last Supper Mary Beth Edelson, 1972,

References

Special thanks to Ms. McDaniel and the Paly Theatre Library for helping me complete this project.

Works Cited:





Art and Social Justice for Women

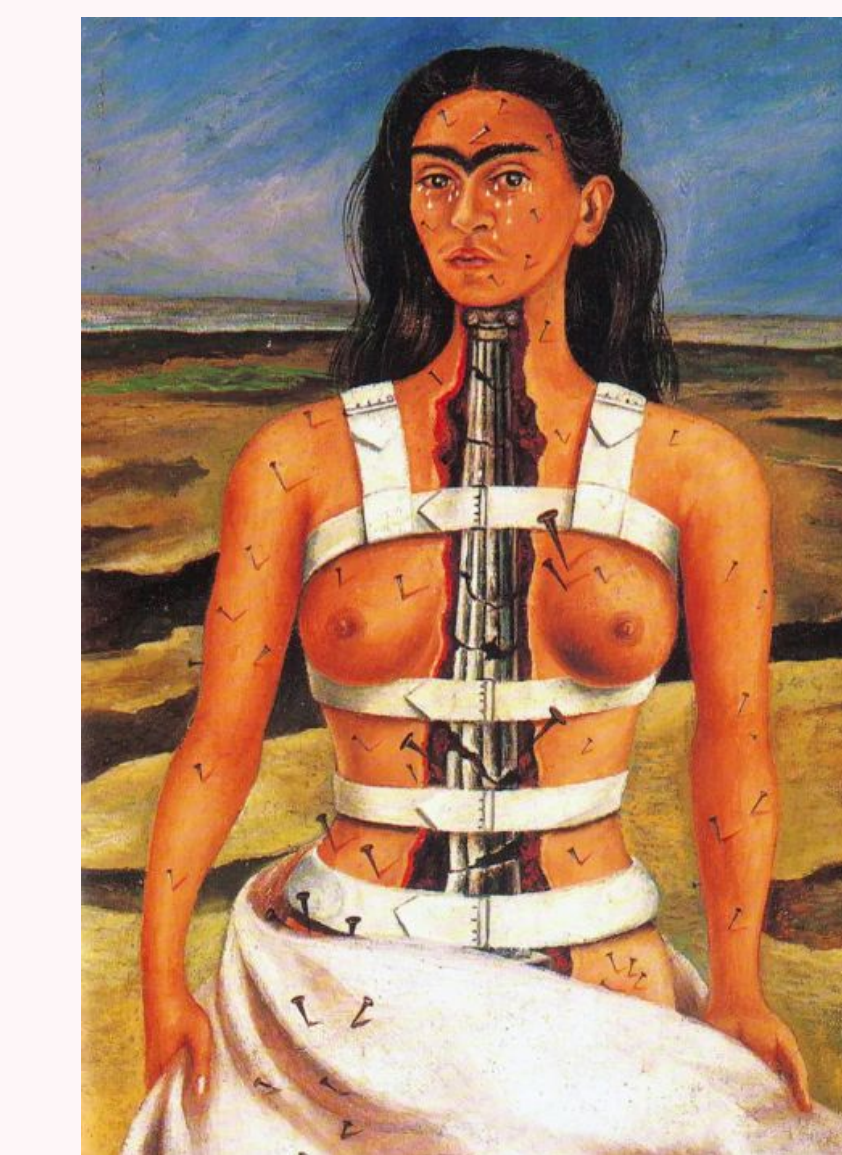
Rebecca Helft

Palo Alto High School



Introduction

- ★ "In recent decades, [progress for gender equality] has slowed or stalled." (England)
- ★ This is incredibly damaging for women
- ★ Because of its broad appeal and accessibility, art may be an effective tool to inspire action from the public
- ★ In the past art has been an effective tool for other social justice movements (such as the civil rights movement)



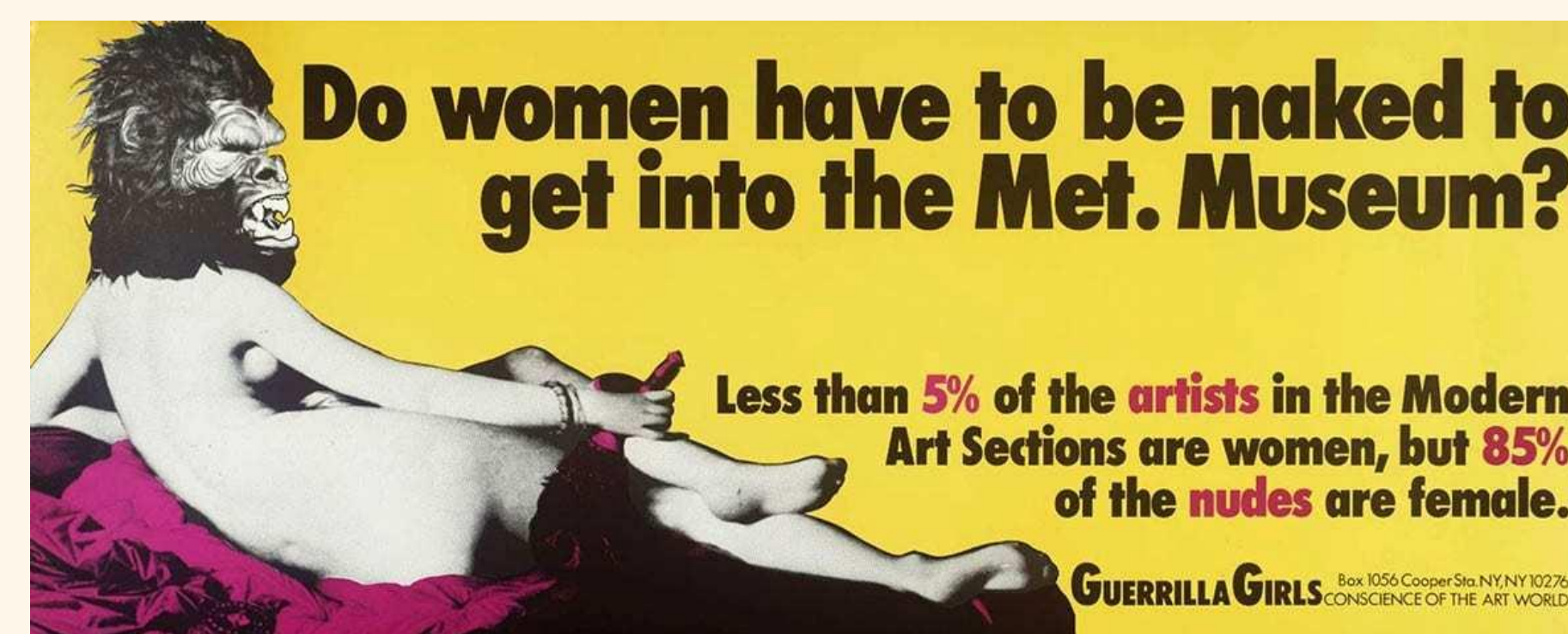
Broken Column, Frida Kahlo, 1944

Research Methodologies

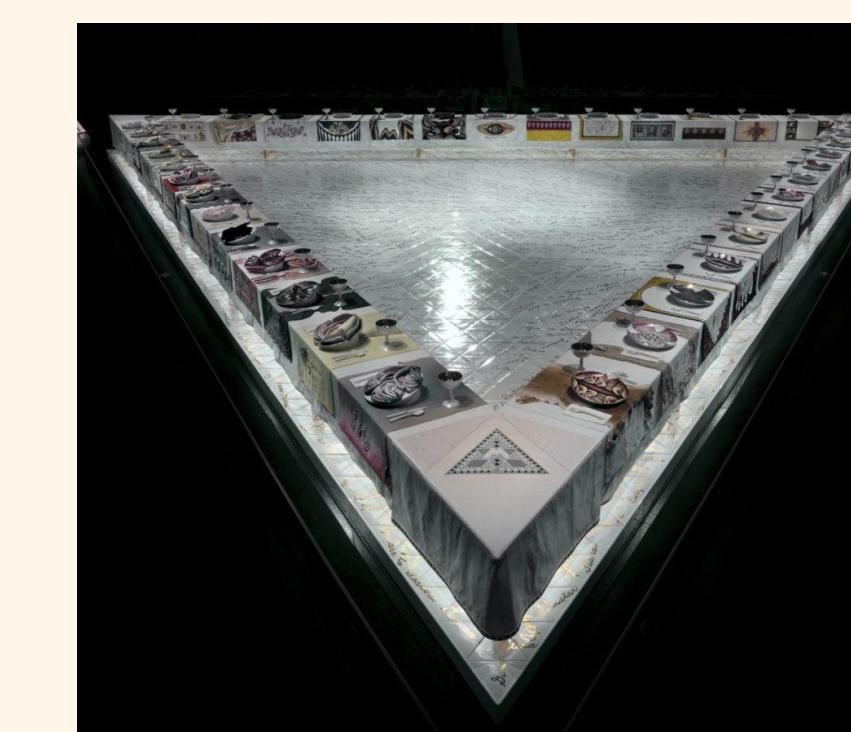
- ★ My inquiry approach for this project was a mix of historical evaluation, phenomenological, and content analysis
 - So that I could investigate if art can help combat gender discrimination
- ★ I collected my data by researching how art has or hasn't been an effective tool in the past
- ★ I used qualitative methods in my data sampling
 - Ex. reading articles, and books, listening to music, and analyzing artwork
- ★ I looked at a mix of primary (ex. a song, painting) and secondary sources (articles about said art)
- ★ I then analyzed these sources using thematic analysis

Data and Findings

There have been many examples of art, whether it calls itself "feminist" or not, having a positive impact on gender equality, and public interest in feminism. Examples range from the play A Doll's House by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, written in 1879 that follows "Nora, a wife beloved, [as she] abandons... her husband and sons to become herself and assert her dignity as human being" (Calvani) to "advertisements" featuring a nude woman with a gorilla head (1), first circulated in 1989 by the Guerilla Girls, to fight for more representation of female artists in art museums.



1. Do Women Have To Be Naked To Get Into the Met Museum? by Guerilla Girls, 1989



2. Judy Chicago, Dinner Party, 1979



3. You Don't Own Me Lesley Gore, 1963

- (2) A popular song in which the lyrics, unlike many other pop songs at the time, "urged women to be independent and to make choices that benefit them." (Ramnath)
- (3) Created by Judy Chicago imagining if "after centuries of being ignored, a group of female artists began to demand their rightful place in art institutions." (Escoto)

Conclusion

Art is an effective tool because it:

- ★[Establishes]self-worth
- ★[Helps recognize] the right to determining and having choices
- ★[Gives] access to opportunities and resources
- ★[Teaches you how to control] your own life
- ★Posses[ses] the ability to influence social and economic change (Jernigan)

Time and time again art has proven to inspire those who consume it, whether it be to fight over dinner, as A Doll's House did in 1800's Scandinavia, (Calvani) or how Maryland "galvanised theatre makers all over Britain," (Cosslett.) And art can last, as the paintings of Frida Kahlo and the music of the suffragettes have, meaning that even long past its creation, it can continue to inspire countless generations to come.

Implications & Next Steps

Art should be utilized more by activists to fight for gender equality. In the future I would like to study just how to implement art more effectively in social justice settings, and if valuing art more, culturally, politically, etc, has a positive impact on equality across the board. I also wonder how art can be used in an educational setting to teach children about social justice issues, especially given how accessible it is.



Some Living American Women Artists/Last Supper Mary Beth Edelson, 1972,

References

Special thanks to Ms. McDaniel and the Paly Theatre Library for helping me complete this project.

Works Cited:

