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Jess Larson serves as curator for and contributing artist in Humanities Fine Arts Gallery exhibition

Summary: Feminist—the other f-word explores feminism’s impact on contemporary artmaking.

(January 13, 2010)-Jess Larson, associate professor of studio art, serves as curator for and contributing artist in the University of Minnesota, Morris’s next exhibition in the Humanities Fine Arts Gallery: *Feminist—the other f-word*. The retrospect, featuring work by Larson and invited artists, explores feminism’s impact on contemporary artmaking and highlights feminism’s positive and empowering aspects. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 7 p.m. The show runs through Friday, March 12, 2010.

“I used this exhibit to examine my place in the scheme of things at this point in my creative career, as well as offer a sort of valentine for my students that illustrates what I define as the good in feminist art,” states Larson, a 1992 graduate. “I have been at UMM for 15 years on the faculty, the intensity of graduate school has faded in the everyday application of those lessons in my life, and my time at UMM as a student stretches back into a second decade. As an academic and artist, the logical place to examine my sense of place was to invite work by artists that I have known and respected during my education as an artist. I was curious to see how these fortuitous connections have shaped me.”

Larson’s exhibit contributions are from *Look and Learn, Little Girl*, a series of two-dimensional works based on 1950s mass media imagery.

“This continuing series examines language associated with women’s roles and behaviors as they negotiate personal relationships,” shares Larson. “The collection is a humorous and approachable means to discuss how women perceive their ‘place’ and the conflicting messages that have been internalized via social conditioning. It acts as a sort of ‘primer’ to educate a younger more dubious audience, to coax them to see things more critically, and to examine their choices without feeling external pressures to conform to ill-fitting or outdated mores.”

Exhibition contributors also include two fellow alumni. Ann Hennen Barber ’97 and Larson’s friendship began in their teen years. Emily Lyman ’06 and Larson, now peers, began their relationship as student and teacher.

The largest group of artists reflects graduate school connections: Barking Dogs United from Germany (Nikos Arvanitis and Naomi Tereza Salmon), Justin Beard, Christine Buchsbaum, Wendy Clough, Ann Cole, Lenae Day, Julia Galloway, Caleb Gilbert, Abbigail Israelsen, Cara Jaye, Tsehai Johnson, Krisaya Luenganantakul from Thailand, Martha Russo, Bethany Taylor, Colleen Toledano, Rebecca Vaughan, Gail Wagner, Sarah Spencer White, and Summer Zickefoose.

Russo, Beard, and Gilbert will be visiting artists on campus from January 21 through 23, 2010. On Friday, January 22, 2010, at 2 p.m. in HFA 2. Russo will give a keynote artist’s talk about her work and recent exhibition at the Allan Stone Gallery in New York City.

[Larson](#) earned a master of fine arts from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She teaches a variety of courses that include drawing, 2-D and 3-D design, photography, and digital imaging.

Photo above: Larson's "Defensive" from the series Look and Learn, Little Girl

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