

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High-resolution images are available upon request.

BEING WOMAN

Panel Discussion with the Artists, October 5th at Sculpturesite Gallery

When: Sunday, October 5th, 2-5PM

Where: Sculpturesite Gallery at Cornerstone Sonoma

What: BEING WOMAN Exhibition Opening with Artists Panel Discussion

Details: Sculpturesite Gallerist and exhibition curator **Brigitte Micmacker** will moderate a lively panel discussion with **Bella Feldman, Jane Burton, Gale Hart, Carol Koffel** and **Suzanne Morlock**, the five artists featured in the sculpture exhibition that opens at Sculpturesite Gallery on October 5th. This is a unique, not-to-be-missed opportunity to hear how these five powerful women respond to issues facing women today in their own lives, and how these topics have shaped their artwork. The panel discussion begins at 2:30PM in the Cornerstone Gardens Barn.

Reception with hors d'oeuvres by **Park Avenue Catering** and wine by **Poseidon Vineyard** and **Keating Wines** will follow in the Gallery from 4 to 5PM.

Exhibition catalogue signed by the 5 artists will be available at the gallery during the event.

Tickets: \$25 | \$20 to SVMA members. Seating is limited. Reservations are required.

Sculpturesite Gallery is delighted to host "*Being Woman*", an exhibition curated by gallerist Brigitte Micmacker, which brings together sculptures as diverse in concept as in execution by five accomplished women sculptors. The works tackle many issues women face today, including cultural near-taboos such as gun ownership and violence, body image and control, woman's work versus "real" work and the still ubiquitous glass ceiling.

Bella Feldman, who recently had a 50 year retrospective at the Richmond Art Center, has much to say about being a woman sculptor and battling gender disparity in art academia during her 30 years teaching at CCAC

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(now CCA) in Oakland. But Feldman has much more to convey about our culture and its fixation on materialism and war-making. In her massive 2011 sculpture “Jacob’s Ladder”, the rungs of the ladder are delicate glass, perhaps a reference to the glass ceiling she personally experienced. About the other works in the exhibition from Feldman’s series “Utility/Futility” (referenced as “Civilian Goods” in her 1996 monograph), Feldman notes, “The work is intended to be experienced physically first and then intellectually and aesthetically.”

Gale Hart is best known for her functional objects, beautifully crafted from repurposed steel and paint, and for her humorous, often visceral paintings and sculptures that address cultural issues around animal welfare and street art. More recently, questioning Americans’ (both male and female) obsession with guns, Hart embarked on an exploration of the culture of personal weapons: she attended a major gun show and spent time on a shooting range. Many things surprised her, not the least how and why women acquire hand guns and how their men assist them, presumably wanting to empower them, yet sometimes patronizing the women in the process. In a world where women are often the victims of gun violence, and most often at the hands of their partners, Hart’s visual puns are both exquisite and utterly disturbing.

In **Jane Burton**’s often larger-than-life ceramic figures, female forms are reminiscent of ancient representations of the goddess associated with fertility; a shape starting small and rising into the fullness of her power and strength. With her commanding, yet utterly graceful women, Burton explores how women handle issues of femininity, body image, fashion, sensuality, family and spirituality. For “Being Woman”, Burton is creating an all new body of work, including “Foreign Language”, a wall-hung white installation with shadow casting shapes based on the sometimes lethal contraceptive IUDs, which the artist sees as a way for women to lose the control of their own bodies. The work addresses miscommunication and potential violence in women’s lives.

The gallery is pleased to welcome Wyoming sculptor **Suzanne Morlock** to participate in this exhibition! Morlock uses familiar disposable materials in her sculpture, such as newspaper, fishing nets, plastic construction barriers and recording tape, in order to demonstrate the paradox of disposability and endless potential. Morlock, who has shown widely in twelve American states and in Europe, says, “I repurpose the unwanted debris of our disposable society through techniques historically subscribed to as “women's work”, like weaving, sewing, and knitting, revealing aspects of beauty and whimsy while embracing the impermanence of even the work itself.”

Carol Koffel’s latest sculptures explore issues around menopause and other changes during a woman’s lifetime. “Estrogen drives synchronicity between emotion and relationships like the moon and the tides,” states Koffel. “As estrogen leaks from our bodies, the loss manifests profound changes. The *change of life* is a time of transition. A time of choice and celebration of the next stage, where women enter an age of wisdom.” The body of work created for this show comes out of Koffel’s recent residency at the Anderson Ranch in Colorado. Several of the works include light glowing through diaphanous porcelain forms, which communicate change, vulnerability and resilience, adjustability, and ultimately the lightness of achieving balance as an elder woman.

About **Sculpturesite Gallery**

Sculpturesite Gallery is Northern California's only gallery dedicated entirely to modern and contemporary fine art sculpture, representing over fifty mid-career to internationally renowned artists. The gallery is located at Cornerstone Sonoma, at the gateway to the Sonoma and Napa wine countries. Cornerstone Sonoma is located minutes from the Sonoma Plaza and 45 minutes north of the Golden Gate Bridge.

SculptureWALK is the gallery's latest creation: a sculpture garden showcasing over sixty free standing, monumental, kinetic, and water sculptures throughout the Cornerstone garden complex. Curator-led tours are available by appointment.

Sculpturesite Gallery is open daily from 10am – 5pm at Cornerstone Sonoma, 23588 Arnold Drive (Highway 121), Sonoma, CA 95476.

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