

Women and Change

5 February – 14 August 2022

ARKEN invites visitors to explore how artists have shaped and challenged gender roles, norms and identities in art throughout the last 150 years. All this unfolds in this spring's major exhibition, *Women and Change*.

Presenting 117 works of art created by international and Danish artists, the exhibition takes a highly topical look at various depictions of women found in art history and in our own time: from Impressionist portraits to performative body art. From lush studies of nudes to critical examinations of how history is written.

"Women and Change offers insight into 150 years of Western art history – and shows the various positions and counter-positions adopted through the ages in the artists' depictions of women. At a time when new art history is being written before our eyes, this exhibition is unique in taking a long look back in history to showcase how a wide range of ideas, perceptions and art have changed over time," says Dorthe Juul Rugaard, senior curator and head of collections at ARKEN.

From the struggle for education to #MeToo

What does it mean to be a woman today? Who defines what is and is not feminine? And is femininity gender specific at all? Our concepts of women and femininity are constantly changing and up for negotiation. The exhibition *Women and Change* tells the story of women's liberation through art while also exploring our present time where new perspectives and perceptions of body ideals, gender identity and femininity infuse the public debate.

The first stirrings of the women's movement came around 1870: new ideas about women's liberation – and a new view of art – meant that more women artists were given the opportunity to practice and exhibit their art. In Denmark, a new, more neutral word for 'woman' – 'kvinde' – replaced the old-fashioned and somewhat derogatory 'fruentimmer'. Overall developments gave rise to hope for brighter times ahead for women's rights and roles. Since then, countless artists have rebelled against traditional depictions of women, helping to expand and add nuance to our view of gender and gender identity. Since 2017, the #MeToo movement – originally launched by African-American activist Tarana Burke in 2006 – has shown us that the battle for women's right to their own bodies remains ongoing.

From Marie Krøyer to Laure Prouvost

Women and Change spans the range from late nineteenth-century works to the most recent contemporary art and includes painting, sculpture, photography, film and installation art. Explore art by Marina Abramović, Dara Birnbaum, Louise Bourgeois, Bolette Berg and Marie Høeg, Arvida Byström, Claude Cahun, Kate Cooper, Ditte Ejlerskov and EvaMarie Lindahl, Paul Gauguin, Guerrilla Girls, Sophie Holten, Kirsten Justesen, Birgit Jürgenssen, Marie Krøyer, Johannes Larsen, Marie Laurencin, Vilhelm Lundstrøm, Ana Mendieta, Berthe Morisot, Emilie Mundt, Frida Orupabo, Lene Adler Petersen, Laure Prouvost,

Pipilotti Rist, Cindy Sherman, Apolonia Sokol, Andy Warhol, Tabita Rezaire, Sif Itona Westerberg, Cajsa von Zeipel and many more.

For further information please contact:

Head of Communications Anne Axholm

Tel. (+45) 51 67 02 03

E-mail: anne.axholm@arken.dk

Press Coordinator Lea Bolvig

Tel. (+45) 30 45 67 18

E-mail: lea.bolvig@arken.dk