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‘transfeminisms’ exhibition uplifts voices from vulnerable communities around the globe



Ada Pinkston, "Landmarked," 2018, left (documentation by Chris Chapa) and Fatima Mazmouz, "H.EROS, Portraits of Moorish Women," 2023, right (courtesy of the artist), are among the works in "transfeminisms, a new exhibition coming to Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art on March 1.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Opening March 1, 2025, at Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA), "transfeminisms" brings to light a multiplicity of urgent, pressing and ongoing issues faced by women and queer and trans people across the globe.

The major survey show has been unveiled in sections at London's Mimosa House since March, and when it travels to SMOCA, a part of the nonprofit Scottsdale Arts, in 2025, it will take over all five of the museum's galleries, remaining on view through Aug. 24.

"From the moment I heard the exhibition's title, I understood it to be a project of curatorial activism — an exhibition that highlights and uplifts voices from vulnerable communities across the globe with the hopes of gathering broad support, understanding and empathy," said Jennifer McCabe, director and chief curator at SMOCA. "I am proud to be part of an exhibition that advocates for women and women-identifying people across geographies, races and cultures."

McCabe, who is one of the exhibition's four primary curators, said the advocacy nature of the show could be in midair to undertake publicly, but the significant financial support it received from national funders speaks to the necessity of projects like this. Grants to support the exhibition came from the National Endowment for the Arts, Terra Foundation for American Art and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

"transfeminisms" outlines strategies of resistance through collective action, care and radical imagination to generate a more equitable future. The exhibition explores the lineage of feminist art practices by facilitating dialogue between emerging and more established artists from around the world. In addition to the four curators, three assistant curators and ten global curatorial advisors helped bring the exhibition together.

"When I conceptualized this project in 2022, my intention was to organize an exhibition that would be in conversation with 'Global Feminisms,' another large-scale exhibition that I co-curated with Linda Nochlin 17 years ago," said Maura Reilly, one of the show's other curators. "The aim with 'transfeminisms' is to investigate feminist art practice today, and again from an intersectional standpoint. The international curatorial consortium that collaborated on the project has culled together a superb selection of artists, whose themes range from feminist care and kinship to radical imaginations and collective action."

Reilly is the director of Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University in New Jersey and the Founding Curator of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum. She and McCabe first met a few years ago when Reilly came to Arizona State University to lead the school's Museum Studies Program, where McCabe is also an instructor.

Reilly told McCabe of her idea for revisiting the "Global Feminisms" show. London's Mimosa House was already on board to host the show. So, McCabe lined up SMOCA as its second stop, and the first location where the exhibition will be shown as a whole. Due to Mimosa House's small size, "transfeminisms" has unfolded there over five distinct chapters.

Reilly is a leader in feminist art history, and under McCabe's leadership, SMOCA has sought to elevate contemporary women artists in recent years through exhibitions featuring women artists and growing its collection with works by women artists. McCabe notes that art history has systemically ignored women artists.

The title of "transfeminisms" is intentionally provocative. McCabe said it's about "all the different definitions of feminism."

The prefix "trans" implies "across, beyond, through, on the other side of," while the plural "feminisms" recognizes the innumerable definitions of feminism worldwide. The curators' intend for "transfeminisms" to be understood within an inclusive and decolonial context — one that takes museum patrons across feminisms and encompasses various "trans" possibilities.

Organized into five themes, the exhibition will explore activism, labor, fragile archives, care/kinship and radical imaginations. While those five themes are being explored separately at Mimosa House, they will be on view together at SMOCA, spread across four galleries.

Meanwhile, SMOCA's fifth gallery will be dubbed the "Forum" space. It will have resources for community groups to come in and use the space for meetings, whether it's an organization of women in business or a collective from the LGBTQIA+ community. SMOCA also intends to program the space with monthly events, including film screenings, poetry readings, open mic nights and more.

"Transfeminisms" features 35 artists from 21 countries: Myriam Omar Awadi (France), Yael Bartana (Israel), Sonia Boyce (United Kingdom), Victoria Cantons (United Kingdom), Cassils (Canada), Nanibah Chacon (Navajo Nation), Liz Cohen (United States), Cao Fei (China), Zainab Fasiki (Morocco), Chiara Fumai (Italy), Naomi Rincón Gallardo (United States), Marlene Guérrerrez (United States), Juliana Huxtable (United States), Lubaina Himid (United Kingdom), Marcia Harvey Isaksson (Zimbabwe), Elsa James (United Kingdom), Kyuri Jeon (United States/South Korea), Jesse Jones (Ireland), Yuki Kihara (Samoa), Fatma Mazmouz (Morocco), Gulnur Mukazhanova (Kazakhstan), Shirin Neshat (Iran), Joséfa Ntjam (France), Ada Pinkston (United States), Agnes Quesonmark (Italy), Rosanna Raymond and SaV'Age K'lub (New Zealand), Irene Antonia Diane Reece (United States), Alex Marquis Roe (Australia), Cara Romero (United States), Bahia Shehab (Lebanon), Selma Selman (Bosnia and Herzegovina/Romani), Buhlebezwe Siwani (South Africa), Shinique Smith (United States), Elena Tejada-Herrera (Peru), and Lorena Wolffer (Mexico).

SMOCA — named "Best Art Museum" by the Phoenix New Times — is located at 7374 E. Second St., Scottsdale, Arizona 85251. It is open Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit [SMOCA.org](https://www.smo-ca.org) for information.

Admission is \$13–\$16 for non-members; \$10–\$13 for students, seniors (65+) and veterans; and free for Scottsdale Arts ONE Members, healthcare workers, first responders, and patrons 18 and younger. Admission to the museum is pay-what-you-wish every Thursday and every second Saturday of the month. Save time and money by booking online at [SMOCA.org](https://www.smo-ca.org).

"transfeminisms" is organized by Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMOCA) with Mimosa House and curated by Christine Eyene, Daria Khan, Jennifer McCabe and Maura Reilly. Assistant curators include Sandra Lam, Keshia Turley and Jessica Wan. Global curatorial advisors include Camille Auer, Giulia Casalini, Natasha Ginwala, Snejana Krasteva, Natalia Sielewicz, Gabriela Rangel, Lucía

Sanromán, Olia Sosnovskaya, Stefanie Hessler and Indira ZiyabekThe exhibi on is made possible through funding from Na onal Endowment for the Arts, Terra Founda on for American Art and the Andy Warhol Founda on for the Visual Arts.

SCOTTSDALE ARTS

Scottsdale Arts is a regionally and nationally significant, multidisciplinary arts organization, offering an exceptional variety of programs through its six departments: Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA), Scottsdale Public Art, Scottsdale Arts Learning & Innovation, Canal Convergence and Civic Center LIVE. Scottsdale Arts creates diverse, inspired arts experiences and outreach opportunities for the community while fostering active engagement with the arts among individuals, businesses, educational institutions and government agencies. Founded in 1999, SMoCA is an accredited and internationally recognized institution that encourages reflections and conversations about life through art. The museum produces and mediates creative expressions that lead to shared curiosity and meaning across a wide range of publics.

MEDIA PREVIEWS: Scottsdale Arts will offer media previews of the exhibition by appointment the day before opening. Contact Brian Passey (below) to schedule an appointment.

MEDIA: For interviews, photos or additional information, please contact:

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