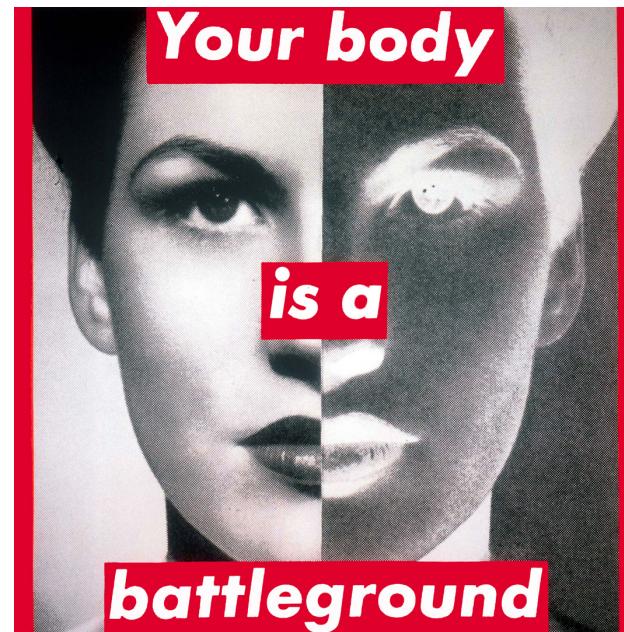


American Feminist Art

Moritz M. Konarski

April 28, 2020

- questions male dominance in art and society
- uses "female crafts" to send a message
- not just aesthetic, wants to bring change
- currently relevant and evolving



Mary Beth Edelson (1933–)

Some Living American Women Artists / Last Supper (1972)

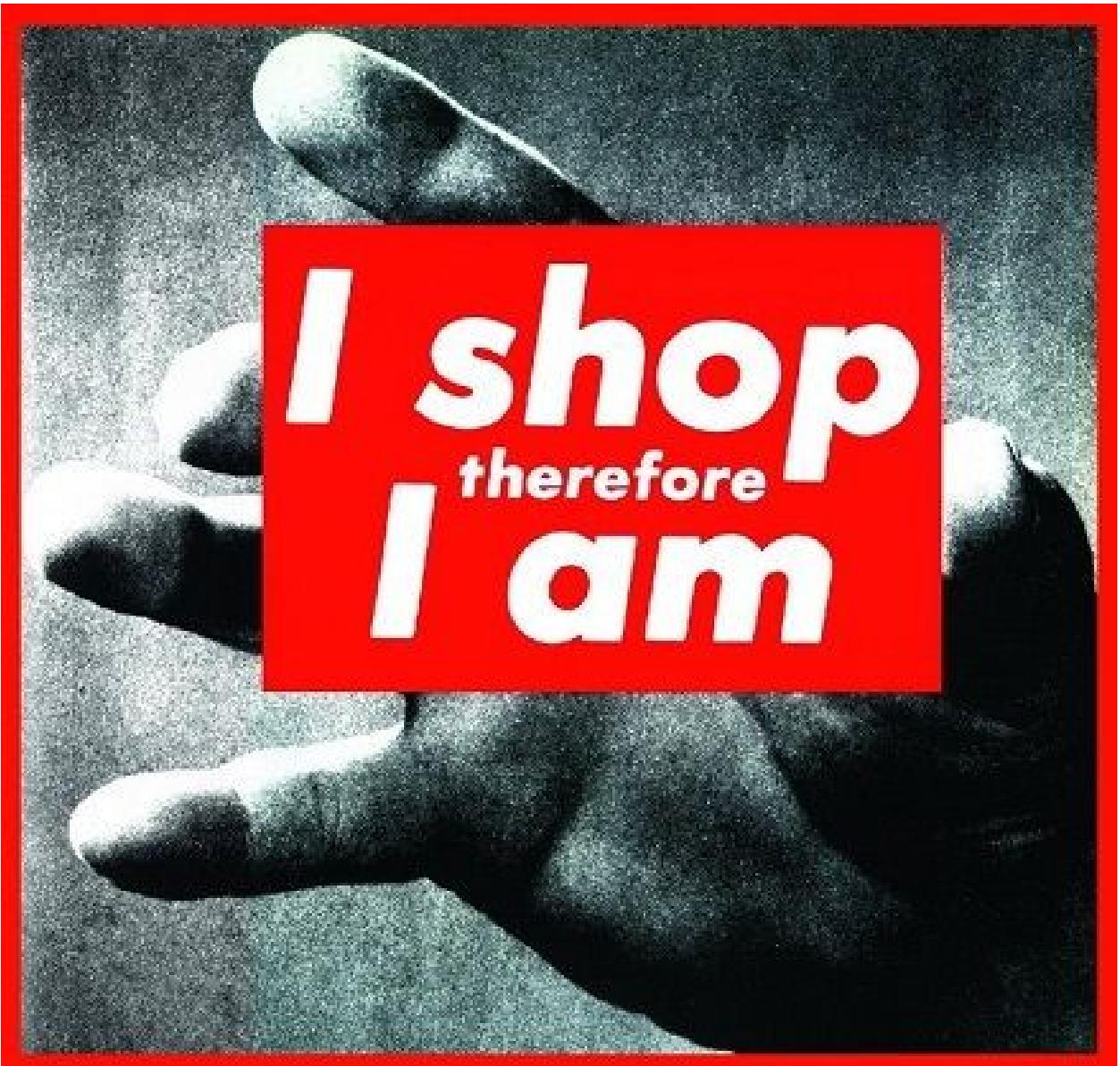
- poster mock-up of *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci [2]
- pasted over faces of Jesus and his disciples women artists
- photos of 82 women artists on this poster [10].
- presents female artists, exposes male exclusivity of the art world [2].



Barbara Kruger (1945–)

Untitled (I shop therefore I am) (1987)

- print, conceptual work of art – focused on message [3]
- *I shop therefore I am* is a spin on Rene Descartes' *I think therefore I am*
- comment on materialistic items replacing self-worth of consumers
- feminist point of view: male-looking hand holding this message meant for women [3]



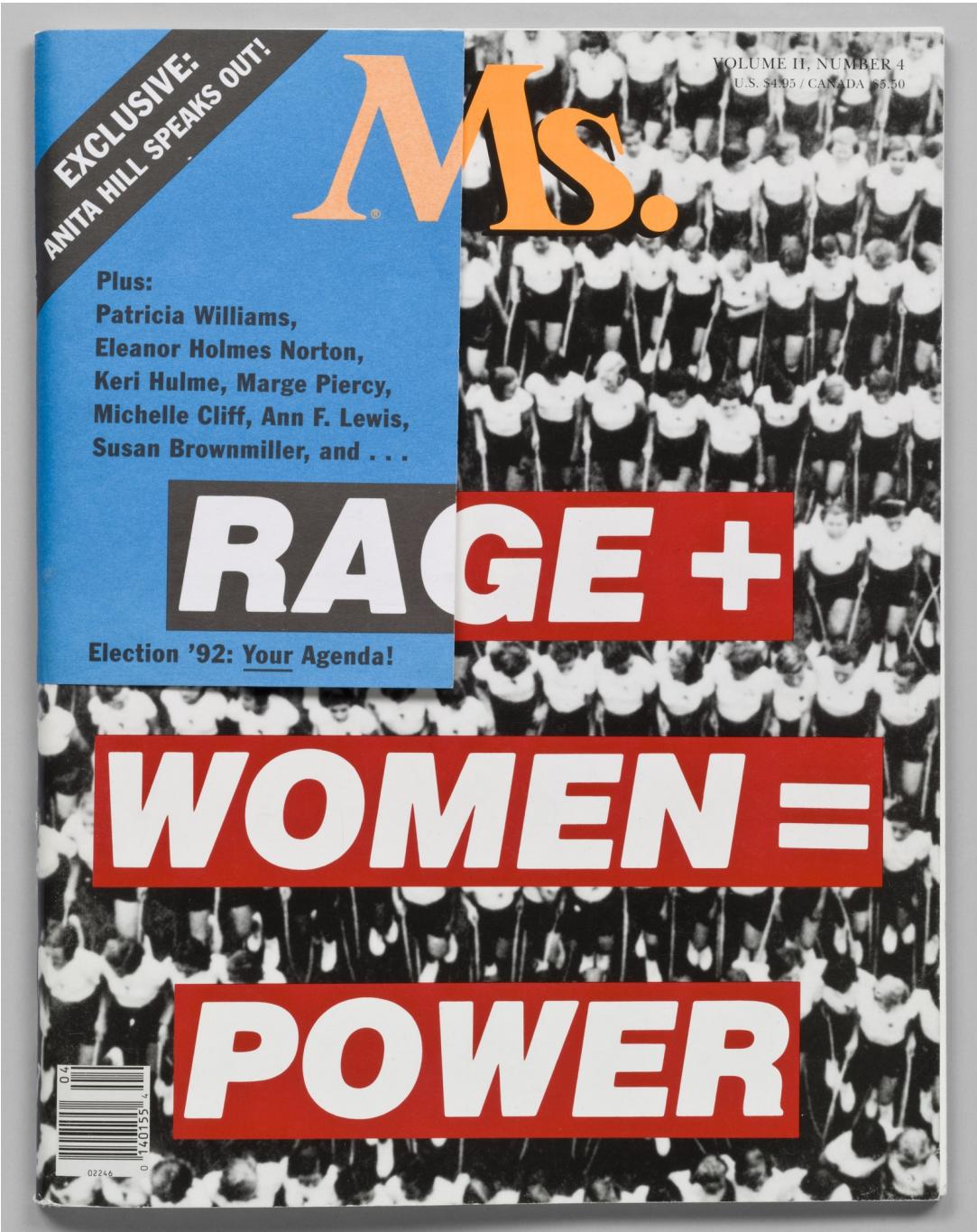
Untitled (Your Body is a Battleground) (1989)

- protest against laws that attempted to restrict *Roe vs. Wade* that legalized abortions
- made for *March for Women's Lives* in Washington D.C.
- split face could signify ongoing struggle ([6], [8]).



Magazine Covers — Rage + Women = Power (1992)

- Kruger was magazine designer in 70s, these are returns to her roots
- right shows cover of *Ms.* magazine from 1992 [1]
- next slide shows the cover of *W* magazine from 2010 ([9], [7])
- slogans are short and direct and leave room for interpretation
- below it is not clear if Kim Kardashian is saying the slogan or if it is a comment on her



Magazine Covers — It's all about me, I mean you, I mean me (2010)



Guerilla Girls

Do Women Have to be Naked to Get Into the Met. Museum? (1989)

- from portfolio of 30 images titled *Guerilla Girls Talk Back*
- nude woman wearing gorilla mask, based on *La Grande Odalisque* by Ingres
- critiques hypocrisy of Met. Museum – no problem exhibiting nudes but small number of women artists [4].



The Advantages of Being a Woman Artist (1988)

- poster from the same portfolio as the one above
- lists 13 ironic "advantages" of being a woman artist
- highly ironic points highlight irony woman artists' situation
[5]

THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING A WOMAN ARTIST:

Working without the pressure of success.

Not having to be in shows with men.

Having an escape from the art world in your 4 free-lance jobs.

Knowing your career might pick up after you're eighty.

Being reassured that whatever kind of art you make it will be labeled feminine.

Not being stuck in a tenured teaching position.

Seeing your ideas live on in the work of others.

Having the opportunity to choose between career and motherhood.

Not having to choke on those big cigars or paint in Italian suits.

Having more time to work after your mate dumps you for someone younger.

Being included in revised versions of art history.

Not having to undergo the embarrassment of being called a genius.

Getting your picture in the art magazines wearing a gorilla suit.

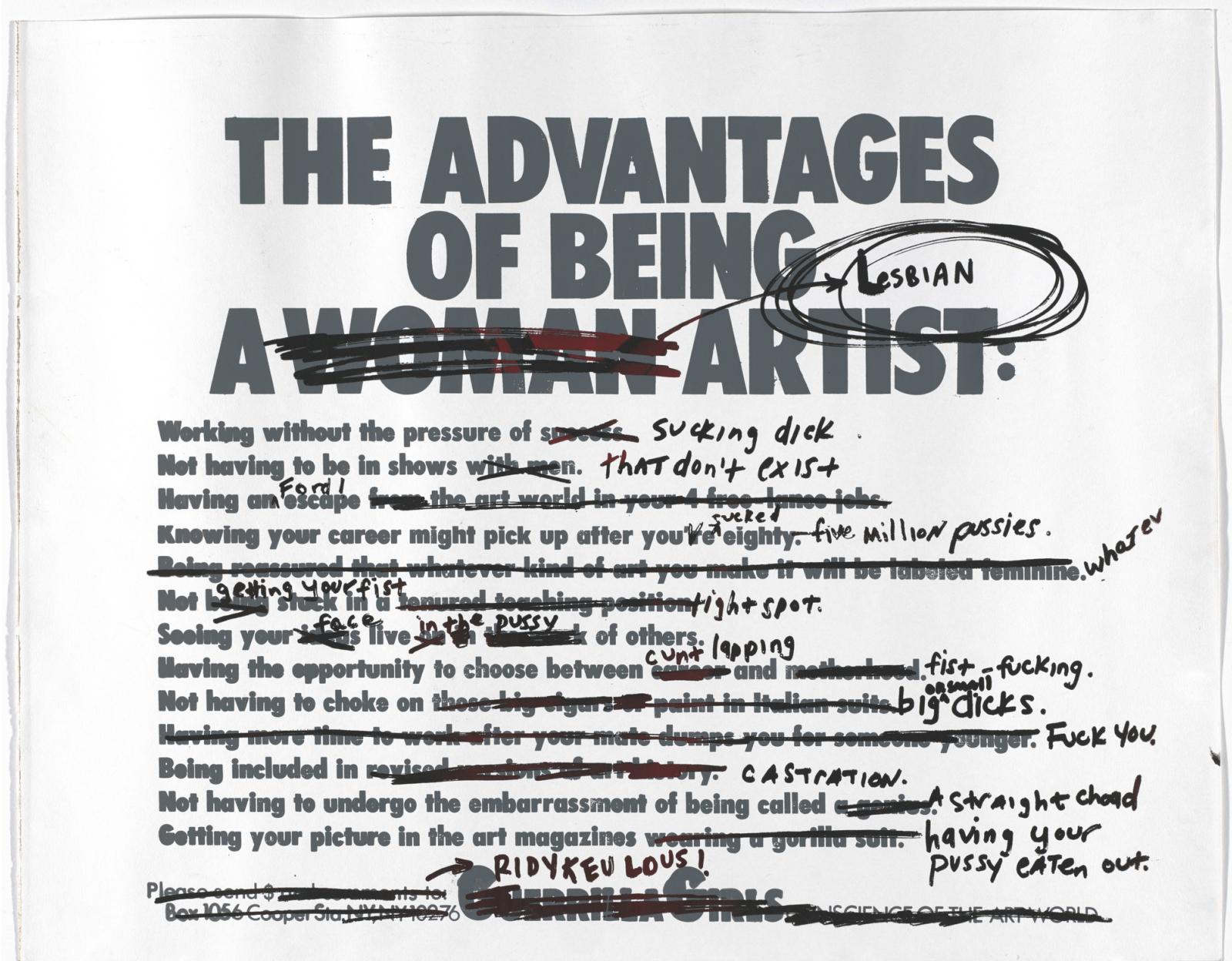
Please send \$ and comments to:
Box 1056 Cooper Sta. NY, NY 10276

GUERRILLA GIRLS CONSCIENCE OF THE ART WORLD

Ridykeulous

The Advantages of Being a Lesbian Woman Artist (2006)

- comment on the Guerilla Girls poster above
- crossed things out and re-wrote them in black
- changes make the poster ridykeulous
- extends critique to the treatment of not heterosexual artists



References

- [1] MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, *Barbara Kruger – rage + women = power* (1992). Website. URL: https://www.moma.org/collection/works/73568?sov_referrer=art_term&art_term_id=168.
- [2] —, *Mary Beth Edelson – some living american women artists / last supper* (1972). Website. URL: https://www.moma.org/collection/works/117141?sov_referrer=art_term&art_term_id=168.
- [3] PUBLIC DELIVERY, *Barbara kruger – untitled (i shop therefore i am)* (1987). Website. URL: <https://publicdelivery.org/barbara-kruger-i-shop/>.
- [4] TATE, *Guerilla Girls – do women have to be naked to get into the met. museum?* (1989). Website. URL: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/guerrilla-girls-do-women-have-to-be-naked-to-get-into-the-met-museum-p78793>.
- [5] —, *Guerilla Girls – the advantages of being a woman artist* (1988). Website. URL: <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/guerrilla-girls-the-advantages-of-being-a-woman-artist-p78796>.
- [6] THE ART STORY, *Barbara Kruger – untitled (your body is a battleground)* (1989). Website. URL: https://www.theartstory.org/artist/kruger-barbara/artworks/#pnt_2.

- [7] —, *It's all about me, i mean you, i mean me*. Website. URL: https://www.theartstory.org/artist/kruger-barbara/artworks/#pnt_6.
- [8] THE BROAD, *Barbara Kruger – untitled (your body is a battleground) (1989)*. Website. URL: <https://www.thebroad.org/art/barbara-kruger/untitled-your-body-battleground>.
- [9] W MAGAZINE, *Barbara Kruger – it's all about me, i mean you, i mean me (2010)*. Website. URL: <https://www.wmagazine.com/gallery/kim-kardashian-queen-of-reality-tv-ss/>.
- [10] WIKIPEDIA, *Mary Beth Edelson*. Website. URL: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Beth_Edelson.