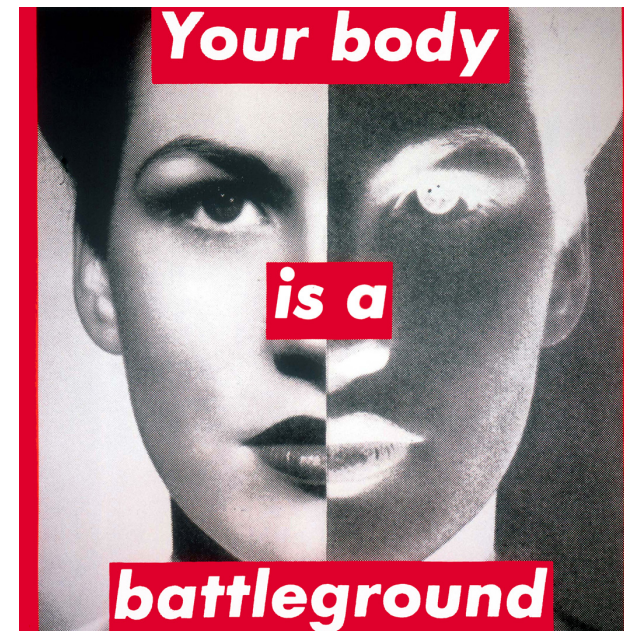


American Feminist Art

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)

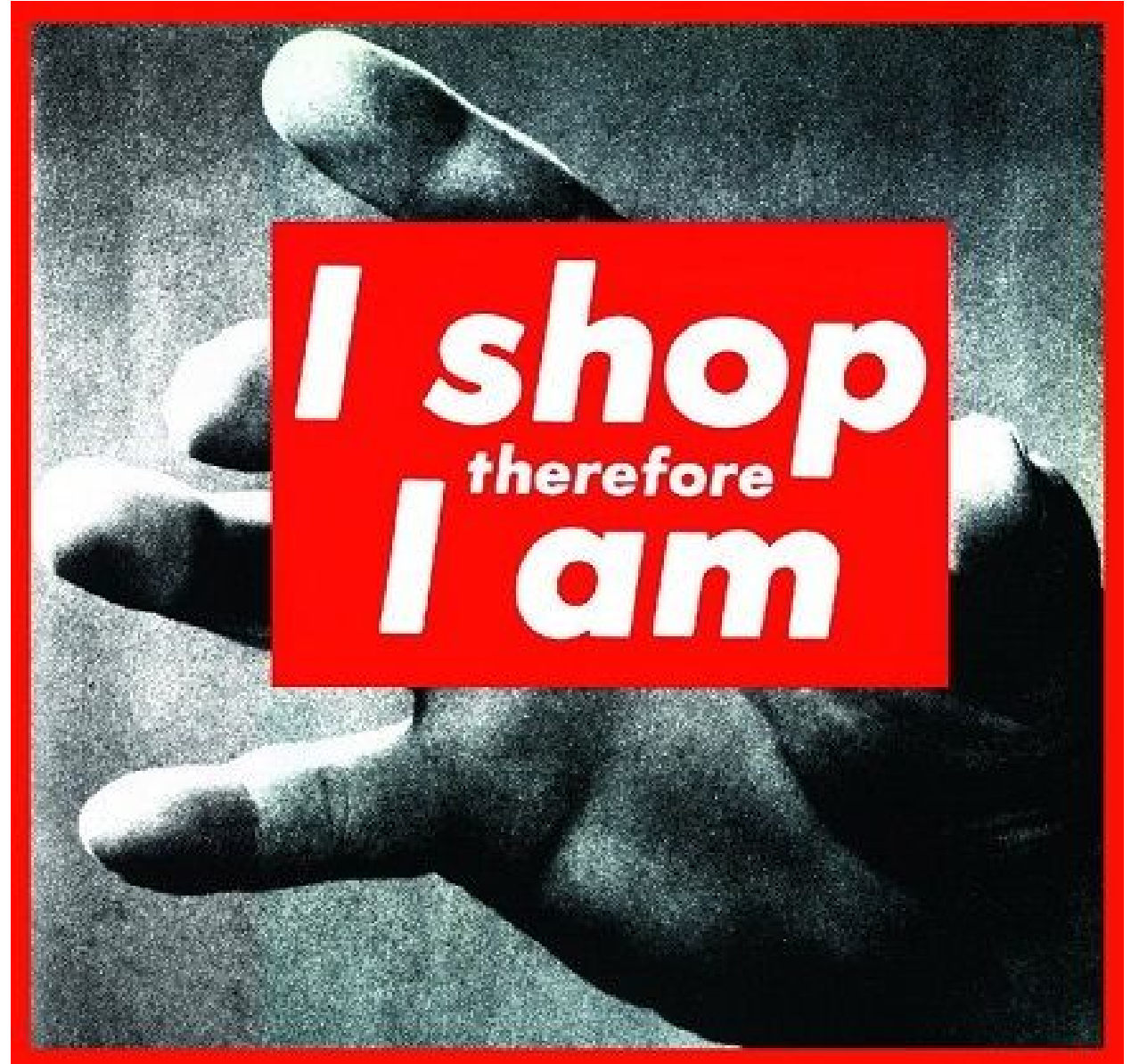
- poster mock-up of *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci [2]
- pasted over faces of Jesus and his disciples women artists
- photos of 82 women artists on this poster [10].
- presents female artists, exposes male exclusivity of the art world [2].



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]



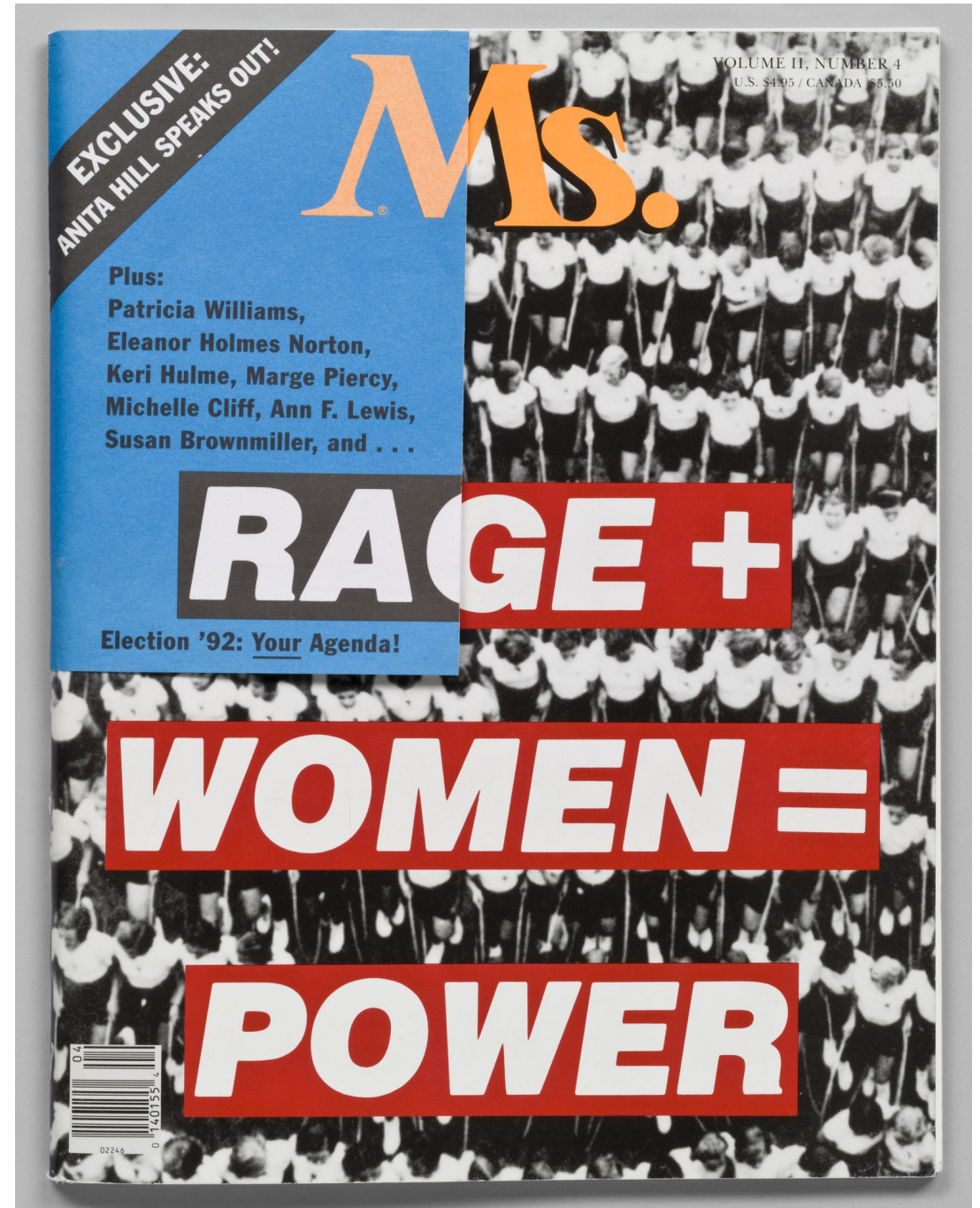
Untitled (Your Body is a Battleground) (1989)

- 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

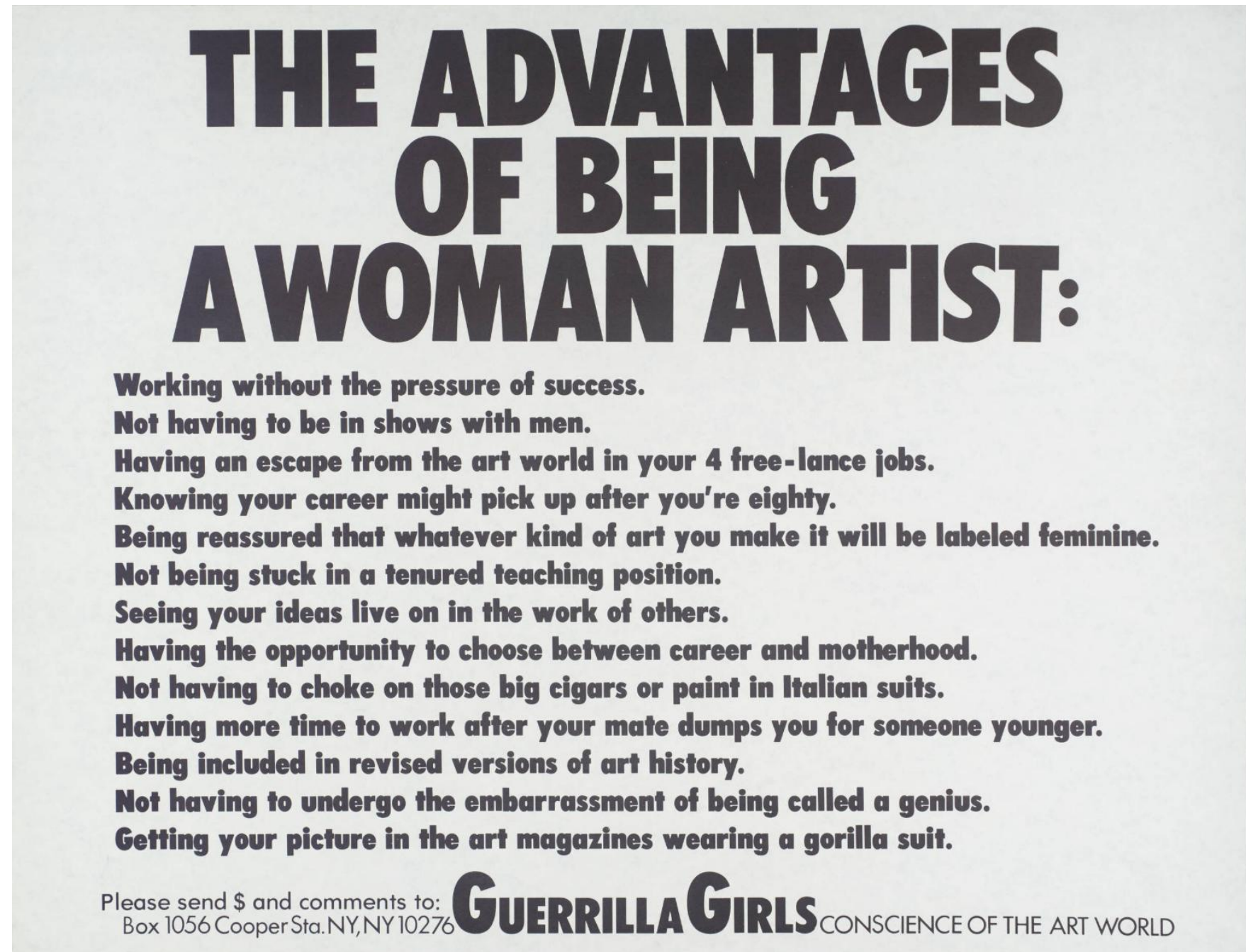
Do Women Have to be Naked to Get Into the Met. Museum? (1989)

- 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)

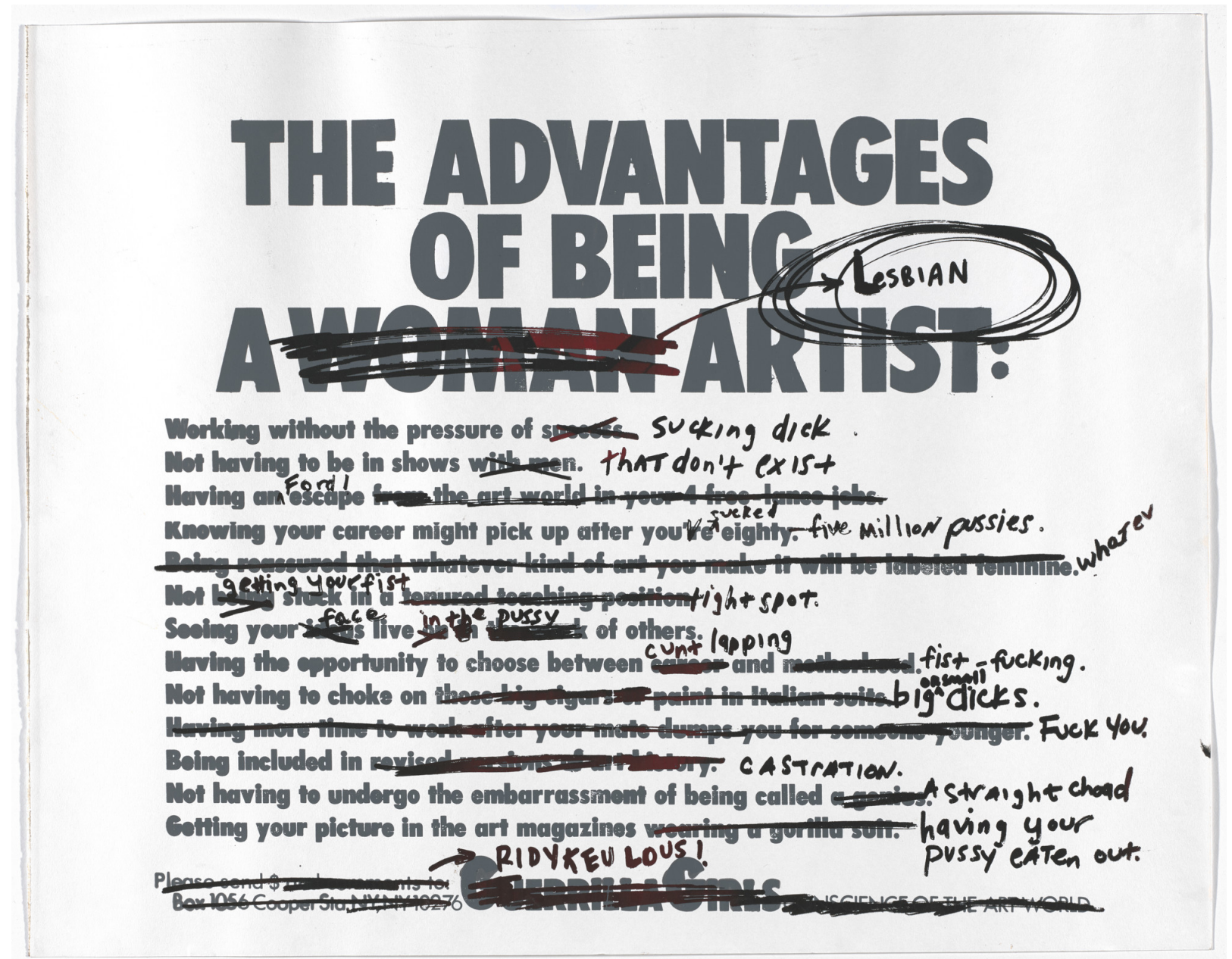
- poster from the same portfolio as the one above
- lists 13 ironic "advantages" of being a woman artist
- highly ironic points highlight irony woman artists' situation [5]



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.