



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 6, 2014

Contact: Sherri Cornett 406-698-5006, SherriCornett@gmail.com

US Artists, Writers Collaborate on Exhibit, Cultural Exchange In China *Exchange explores new territory of "Social Practice" art*

New York, New York – Forty-two women artists and essayists will collaborate with a select group of Chinese counterparts to share their visions and voices in ***"HALF THE SKY: Intersections in Social Practice Art."*** This unprecedented cultural exchange is a partnership between the Women's Caucus for Art (WCA) and LuXun Academy of Fine Arts in Shenyang, China.

The exchange draws on Chairman Mao Zedong's famous statement that "Women hold up half the sky" — a theme that continues to inspire social change across the globe— to explore how art can support these efforts .

An important component of WCA's mission is supporting global art activism and recognizing the contributions of women in the arts. This project is a perfect manifestation of this mission.

In considering the upcoming exhibition, LuXun's gallery director and curator of the Chinese art Wang Yi Gang stated: "Let us quietly feel the extraordinary powers of perception found in these women artists' response to their environment. In this endeavor to bring together the art of two cultures, may we appreciate both the differences and common ground found in the vision of American and Chinese female artists."

The exhibition at LuXun Academy will run from April 15-30, with related cultural programs taking place from April 15-17, 2014. A full-color bilingual catalogue will accompany the exhibition with essays, selected by Terri Weissman, assistant professor of Art History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It will offer the perspectives of an art historian and social practice artists.

In addition, a multi-generational delegation of artists, educators and writers will represent the WCA in China for the cultural exchange. WCA International Caucus Chair and project director Sherri Cornett noted that the 16 working delegates are actively involved in co-producing this project. "We believe that our mutual experience and identity as women and artists will bridge the traditional gaps of culture, race, language and politics, and that this open interchange will have the power to provide the participants with the clarity, insight and sense of community uniquely accessible in the domain of art."

Artworks will include ones juried by Alma Ruiz, Senior Curator at Museum on Contemporary Art Los Angeles as well as works created by the WCA delegation including on-site installations and interactive pieces. The Chinese art works were curated by Wang Yi Gang with Co-Curator Yin Ou Zhao. The exhibition will feature a variety of media including installation, painting, performance, photography, video and sculpture.

Participating WCA Artists and Essayists: A Window Between Worlds (Nina Jun, Cathy Salser & Barbara T. Smith), Susan Armington, *Alli Berman, Suzanne Beutler, Elizabeth Bisbing, Jessica Burke, *Chan & Mann (Audrey Chan & Elana Mann), *Sherri Cornett, Elizabeth Damon, *Jing Deng, Laurie Edison, Danielle Eubank, Joanna Fulginiti, Eva Preston, *Christine Giancola, Sara Beth Goncarova, Guerilla Gowns Collective, Maki Hajikano, Aram Han, Maxine Hess, *Kay Kang, *Mido Lee, Sinan Leong Revell, *Louder Than Words (S.A. Bachman & Neda Moripour), *Rosemary Meza-Des Plas, Katie Morton, *Sandra Mueller, Mary Neubauer, *Brenda Oelbaum, *Priscilla Otani, Min Kim Park, Jaye Phillips, Natalie Philips, Marjorie Durko Puryear, Sherry Saunders, Wendy Simmons, T' Alyne, Virginia Tyler, *Jill Waterhouse and Margi Weir.

*Member of the WCA delegation.

More details are available at <http://wcainternationalcaucus.weebly.com/press-kit-half-the-sky-intersections-in-social-practice-art.html>

New York Times, "Outside the Citadel, Social Practice Art Is Intended to Nurture" <http://nyti.ms/1btGHTf>

###

About the Women's Caucus for Art (WCA)

Founded in 1972, WCA's mission is to create community through art, education and social activism. WCA is an affiliate society of the College Art Association, a co-founder of The Feminist Art Project and an NGO of the United Nations.

About the LuXun Academy of Fine Arts

Founded in 1938, Luxun Academy of Fine Arts (LAFA) offers undergraduate and M.F.A. degrees to more than 4,700 students. It's main campus, library and gallery are sited in downtown Shenyang.

