WOMEN'S ARTISTRY

Process - Product - Progress

Conference Presented by

School of Fine Arts and Humanities
and Department of English

Kearney State College
Kearney, Nebraska

Thursday & Friday October 8-9, 1987

Program Design by Donna Beck & Kathryn N. Benzel
Women's unique and diverse experiences have brought new insights to literature and the arts, substantially revising artistic techniques and strategies and the means for analyzing these art forms. Underlying women's artistry is necessarily the struggle to create and maintain an identity that is essentially paradoxical—trying to remain individualistic as female yet also claiming a part in the human order.

To that end, the conference objectives are to identify special women's concerns evidenced in their various artistic actions, to explain the nature of this artistry in terms of their individual self-images and broader humanistic goals, and to acknowledge the diversity of women's experience as an integral and necessary part of the human order.

The conference presentations will explore women's response and cultural experience in a wide range of humanistic disciplines. Such topics as women theologians, women's literary history, "female" art, and feminist aesthetics reveal the diversity of women artists and their contributions to the fine arts and humanities.

Other campus events supporting the conference theme have been organized to highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the presentations. Two art exhibitions have been mounted: "Nebraska Women Artists" in the Walker Gallery of the Fine Arts Center; "Women's Artistry: Process/Product/Progress," an exhibition of contemporary women artists, in The Nebraskan Art Gallery. A special exhibit of women students' art is on display at the Calvin T. Ryan Library.

Complementing the daily presentations are two special evening events celebrating women's artistry. Thursday, October 8, Mary Oliver, winner of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, will read from her works and Friday, October 9, Janet Danlelson, a pianist, has prepared a concert of music by women composers.

Running concurrently with the conference is the second annual Nebraska Poetry and Fiction Writers' Festival. Contact Donovan Welch, Department of English, Kearney State College, Kearney, NE 68849, for further information.

The conference thanks the following for their support of the program:
Nebraska Committee for the Humanities
Museum of Nebraska Art
Kearney Area Arts Council
Office of the Provost, Kearney State College
School of Fine Arts and Humanities, KSC
Departments of Art and English, KSC
Calvin T. Ryan Library, KSC
Artists and Lecturers Committee, KSC
The Nebraskan Student Union, KSC

This conference has been organized by Kathryn N. Benzel, Department of English, KSC. It is open to the KSC faculty and students without charge. Attendance is open to the public with payment of a registration fee.

NAME __________________________
SCHOOL __________________________
ADDRESS __________________________
CITY ___________ STATE ___________ ZIP ___________

Return completed registration to:
Kathryn N. Benzel
WOMEN'S ARTISTRY
Department of English
Kearney State College
Kearney, NE 68849
308/234-8294

Registration fee $20.00 (includes Thursday Banquet & Friday Luncheon; refreshment breaks and all conference materials). Make checks payable to Kearney State College.
Thursday, October 8, 1987

Unless otherwise indicated all sessions will take place in The Nebraskan Student Union, Ponderosa Room.

8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION

10:00 a.m. Welcome from Kearney State College
President William R. Nester

Comments from Fine Arts and Humanities
Betty Becker-Theye, Dean

Introduction by Kathryn N. Benzel
Program Director, Kearney State College

Keynote Address:
"Re-envisioning the Female Self: A Collaborative Project"
Estella Lauter, Humanistic Studies,
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

12:00 p.m. Luncheon Break

1:30 p.m. Session A - Reading Women's Verbal Imagery

"Woman as Poet in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's Aurora Leigh"
Linda Lewis, English, Bethany College

"A Whirlwind in the Hard Red Clay:
The Black Woman Artist as Theologian"
Martha Reineke, Philosophy & Religion,
University of Northern Iowa

"The Anti-Madonna in the Work of Virginia Woolf"
Evelyn Haller, English, Doane College

3:00 p.m. Session B - Telling the Truth on a Slant

"Sign and Self in Cassatt's Little Girl in a Blue Armchair"
Rosemary Welsh, Art,
State University of New York, Geneseo

"Alice Neel: the Cinderella of Spanish Harlem"
Marilynn Board, Art,
State University of New York, Geneseo

"Elizabeth Butler and the Military Grid:
The Success of a 19th-Century Woman Artist"
Deborah H. Cibelli, Art,
State University of New York, Oswego

4:30 p.m. "The Eternal Eve and The Newly Born Woman:
Marianne Moore's "Mariaqa"
Bruce Henderson, Speech Communication and Theatre,
Kearney State College

6:00 p.m. Conference Banquet
(Ticket included with Registration)

8:00 p.m. Mary Oliver, Poet
Fine Arts Recital Hall

Ms. Oliver was awarded the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her book of poetry, American Primitive. Her reading this evening will include selections from that collection, from her other published works, and new poetry.

Presentation free and open to the public.
Friday, October 9, 1987

8:30 a.m. Session C - Uncovering a Woman's Perspective

"'Restored to Their Rightful Owners': Correcting Distortions in Art and Literary History"
Lauren P. De La Vars, The Kearney State Foundation

"'It Is the Very Air I Breathe': The Practice of Art in the Life of Clara Schumann"
Gordon J. De La Vars, English, Kearney State College

"Actress or Star: The Necessary Dichotomy"
Victoria Amador, English, Mankato State University

10:00 a.m. Special Session: Contemporary Women Artists
Moderator: Estella Lauter, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
Panelists: Jane Dadey, Fiber Artist
Megan Terry and Jo Ann Schmidman, Omaha Magic Theatre
Susan Rosowski, English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

12:00 p.m. Awards Luncheon for Nebraska Writers' Festival
(Ticket included with Registration)

1:30 p.m. Session D1 - Reconstructing Self in Visual Arts

"Women in the Visual Arts"
Mary A. Lierley, Art, Kearney State College

"Journey Into the Dark Wave"
Ruth Stratton, English, Broome Community College

"Everything You Make Is a Self-Portrait"
Mary Beth Fogarty & Peggy A. Reinecke, Fine Arts, Creighton University

Session D2 - Revising Domestic Roles

"A Celebration of Survival Secured: Food in the Narrative of Willa Cather"
Lynn R. Beideck-Porn, Library Archives, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

"'Fanciful Exceedingly': A Study of Art as Process in the Lives of Two Prairie Women"
Patricia Murphy, Ph.D., Lincoln, Nebraska

"Displaced Women: Feminist Undertones in Dorothy Thomas's The Home Place"
Elizabeth G. Peck, English, Kearney State College

3:00 p.m. "Women's Words"
Reading and Discussion of Women's Poetry
Jean C. Sloop & Edith Hinrichs, Music, Kansas State University

4:30 p.m. Informal Meetings at Exhibit Area

6:00 p.m. Dinner Break

8:00 p.m. Janet Danielson, Pianist "Music by Women Composers"
Fine Arts Recital Hall
Ms. Danielson participates in the Nebraska Arts Council's Touring Program and is co-sponsored by the Kearney Area Arts Council.
Performance free and open to the public.