

## Gender in contemporary art will be the focus of a New York exhibition this fall



Christina Quarles, 'Beautiful Mourning,' 2017. — Picture courtesy of the artist and David Castillo Gallery, Miami

NEW YORK, June 29 — The New Museum, a hub of experimental and progressive ideas within New York City's contemporary art scene, has announced an exhibition on gender fluidity starting this September.

The New Museum already has a legacy of inclusively examining gender and sexuality, notably "[Homo Video: Where We Are Now](#)," during the mid-1980s, on gay identity, and "[Bad Girls](#)," in the mid-1990s, on irrepressible women.

For “[Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a Weapon](#)” (September 27, 2017–January 21, 2018), the institution stated that this decisive title “takes into account that word’s range of meanings, variously problematic and potent; the term evokes both traumatic recall and mechanisms that, set into motion, are capable of igniting radical change.”

This upcoming show will feature an intergenerational group of more than 40 artists who explore gender beyond the binary.

The variety of mediums and genres (film, video, performance, painting, sculpture, photography, and craft) further reflects a general refusal to fit any one categorization.

The artists in “Trigger” are unified, however, by a desire to contest repressive orders and to delve into new forms and aesthetics, as well as explore — and critique — longstanding dialogues and debates around intersectionality.

The exhibition will showcase how gender and power cannot be understood without also examining matters of race, class, sexuality, and disability.

Among the wide range of practitioners, many of the artists’ pieces are tinged with activism — such as those by Nancy Brooks Brody, an original member of the collective Fierce Pussy, and Vaginal Davis, who has long critiqued systematic oppression tied to gender, race, class, and sexuality.

The exhibition will include a number of commissioned works, including a braided sculpture by Diamond Stingily that extends from the fourth floor all the way down to the Museum’s Lobby, alluding to the racial dimensions of beauty conventions as well as to the mythological snake-haired Medusa (whose gaze could turn men into stone).

The artist ektor garcia will present a series of site-specific ready-made sculptures that evoke S&M fetish gear and Mexican housewares.

Commissioned performances will include a special three-episode reunion of Dyke Division’s Room for Cream, the live lesbian soap opera (formerly presented at La MaMa theater in New York, from 2008 to 2010).

“Trigger: Gender as a Tool and a Weapon” will be on view from September 27, 2017.  
— AFP-Relaxnews