WOMXN WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE !

ANDREA BOWERS

Andrea Bowers: *Womxn Workers of the World Unite!* is curated by Steven Matijcio and is on view until June 18, 2017.

It is generously supported by the 1919 Investment Counsel, Sara M. & Michelle Vance Waddell, and ArtsWave Corporate Partner: PNC Bank.

Andrea Bowers is a Los Angeles-based artist who works at the turbulent intersection of art-making, social justice and political activism. Raised in Wilmington, Ohio in what she calls, "an apolitical Republican family," Bowers looks to civil disobedience as a vehicle to explore contemporary causes including women's rights, gay and transgender equality, immigration policy, environmental protection and labor relations. Through the cross-disciplinary exchange of drawing, photography, video, collage, craft, performance, protest and archival research she raises awareness of persecuted communities while highlighting individual voices within larger entities. This exhibition focuses on her ongoing archaeology of the feminist movement, including internal debates about the difficulties of maintaining pertinence and "purity" in an increasingly heterogeneous environment. To better trace this complex trajectory Bowers draws upon her personal collection of political graphics – appropriating and re-activating images depicting powerful, radical women spanning from the 19th century to the present. Within this framework, she spotlights figures that are both iconic and anonymous: finding individuals in photos of protesting crowds – and sentences in manifestos and slogans – to isolate, contemplate and champion. In her words, "I [try] to create images that represent women through a feminist lens while allowing these women the freedom to reclaim and determine their sexuality and voice." By so doing, Bowers forges deliberately contingent monuments to the marginalized and to those who dedicate themselves to "the daily work of overturning the status quo."

Andrea Bowers (b.1965) holds a BFA degree from Bowling Green State University, Ohio and an MFA degree from the California Institute of the Arts. Recent solo exhibitions include *In Situ 1- Andrea Bowers*, Espace Culturel Louis Vuitton, Paris, 2014 and *#sweetjane*, Pomona and Pitzer College Museum of Art, Claremont, 2014. Her work is held is the collections of The Hammer Museum of Art, MoMA, The Whitney Museum of American Art, The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Center, among others. This is her first solo exhibition in Ohio.