

BEELER GALLERY

at Columbus College of Art & Design

a r m s

Throughout the Room

fierce pussy posters (1991-2018)

23 black and white photocopies

17 x 11 in each

a c h e

Free takeaways available for each chapter throughout Season One.

a v í d

Right Vitrine

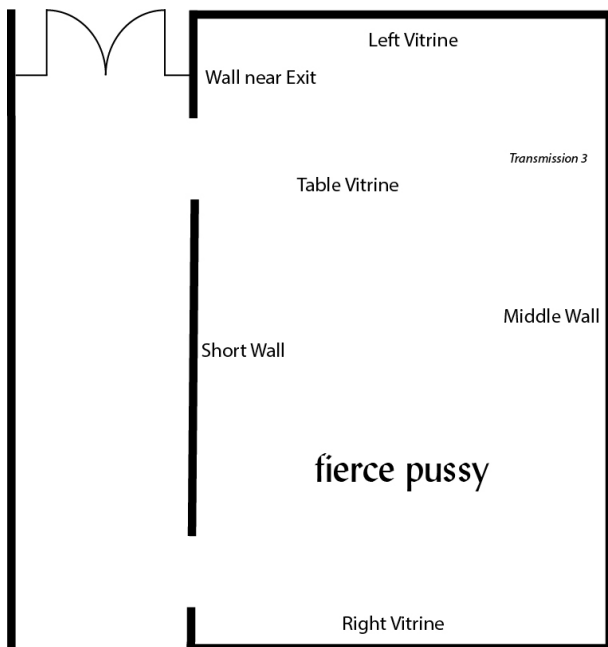
1. T-Shirt (1993)

Silkscreen ink on cotton

30 x 17 in

a e o n

Printed on the occasion of the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation in Washington, D.C. on April 25, 1993. Approximately 1,000,000 people attended the March.



2. Typewritten List (1993)

Inspired by “First they came...”, a poem by German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller (1892–1984), on Nazi persecution. Many versions had existed since the first speeches were made in 1946.

3. Color Photo (1994)

Photo shoot with one-time fierce pussy member Alison Froling to produce documentation for Art Matters grant application, which fierce pussy successfully received.

4, 5. The List (1993)

Printed on the occasion of the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation in Washington, D.C. on April 25, 1993.

Right Vitrine

6. Original Typewritten List (1991)

Original typewritten list that became the source to generate posters, through generations of photocopies. This first project reclaimed derogatory language and transformed it into an affirmation of collective identity. fierce pussy has continued to build on the List Project in various remixes.

fierce pussy formed in 1991 out of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), a direct action advocacy group founded in 1987.

ACT UP is “a diverse, non-partisan group of individuals united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis.”

– from ACT UP website
(www.actupny.org)

7, 8. Photocopies from the original typewritten List (1991)

9. Paste-up Mechanical for the List sticker (1993)

Paste-up was the manual method used in the layout of pages in all print publications that predates the use of desktop publishing applications.

10. *What is a lesbian?* Sticker (1993)

Printed on the occasion of the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation in Washington, D.C. on April 25, 1993.

11. *What is a lesbian?* Typewritten List (1993)

Original list for Boycott Colorado, a grassroots movement fighting the religious right and against the spread of anti-gay & lesbian ballot initiatives across the United States. On November 3, 1992, Colorado became the first state to legalize discrimination against gays, lesbians & bisexuals at the ballot box.

12. *What is a lesbian?* Typewritten List (1993)

13. Season's Greetings cards (1992)

Photocopy on cardstock
11 x 4 1/4 in

Addressed to New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato and John Cardinal O'Connor, in response to the anti-abortion movement between the Catholic Church and the New York State Republican.

14. Paste-up Mechanical for Season's Greetings Cards (1992)

Above the Right Vitrine

***AND SO ARE YOU* Poster (2018)**

Made on the occasion of Queer Power, a façade commission at the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, New York, June 2018 – June 2019.

Middle Wall

(from left to right)

AND SO ARE YOU (2018)

Installation views

A façade commission for Queer Power at the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, New York, June 2018 – June 2019.

AND SO ARE YOU is a project in which fierce pussy has combined and remixed past works with new works, presenting multiple and overlapping aims; to reclaim and transform derogatory language into affirmations of identity; to challenge assumptions about identity, family, gender and appearance; and to take back public space for the LGBTQ community. The collective states, “Historically, public space has held a contradiction for queer people: on the one hand we have been invisible and on the other hand we are frequently the target of violence in public. Part of the impulse in making this work has been to let other queer people know that we are here, that queer people are everywhere—simply put, we make ourselves visible. AND SO ARE YOU is not only making queer space, and expanding the circle of that queer space, but serves as a provocation, to resist the dire political climate we find ourselves in.”

For this project, fierce pussy has included baby pictures in addition to their own, of Mx Justin Vivian Bond, Barbara Hughes, and Heather Johnson.

AIDS...tired of the routine? (1994)

Are we a nation that believes in progress? (1993)

States of poster in progress and finished poster.

Grazer Kunstverein Catalog for PLAKATE (1992)

A year after the founding of fierce pussy, the collective contributed a work in a billboard project at the Austrian institution. fierce pussy’s billboard reads “Find the Lesbian” in the German.

1906 poster (1993)

An early version of the poster for Boycott Colorado, celebrating civil disobedience.

For The Record, Greater New York, MoMA PS1 (2015)

Installation view

For The Record (2013)

First edition of the broadside Visual AIDS, 20th Annual Day With(out) Art.

Five states of When they came for... (1993)

Made around the time when fierce pussy made a PSA, that was shown in *Boycott Colorado*, organized by Simon Watson, New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York.

Left Vitrine

1. *For The Record* (2013)

Stickers for Visual AIDS, on the occasion of 20th Annual Day With(out) Art.

“In 1989 in response to the worsening AIDS crisis and coinciding with the World Health Organization’s second annual World AIDS Day on December 1, Visual AIDS organized the first Day Without Art. In 1998, for its 10th anniversary, Day Without Art became Day With(out) Art. Visual AIDS added the parentheses to highlight the ongoing inclusion of art projects focused on the AIDS pandemic, and to encourage programming of artists living with HIV.

A Visual AIDS committee of art workers (curators, writers, and art professionals) sent out a call for “mourning and action in response to the AIDS crisis” that would celebrate the lives and achievements of lost colleagues and friends; encourage caring for all people with AIDS; educating diverse publics about HIV infection; and finding a cure. More than 800 arts organizations, museums and galleries throughout the U.S. participated by shrouding artworks and replacing them with information about HIV and safer sex, locking their doors or dimming their lights, and producing exhibitions, programs, readings, memorials, rituals, and performances.”

-From Visual AIDS website
(www.visualaids.org)

2. “fierce pussy” Book (2008)

Published by Printed Matter, New York
Out of Print

Published on the occasion of fierce pussy retrospective at Printed Matter, the New York City bookstore founded in 1976 dedicated to artists’ books and independent publishing. fierce pussy went on hiatus between 1995 and 2008, and reconvened for the exhibition at Printed Matter in 2008, and has been working ever since.

3. *AND SO ARE YOU* (2008)

First project by fierce pussy after the four original core members — Nancy Brooks Brody, Joy Episalla, Zoe Leonard, and Carrie Yamaoka — reconvened.

A remix of the first three original List posters from 1991. The tagline *AND SO ARE YOU* signaled the change in the voice of the collective from self-reflexive towards the public.

4. *AND SO ARE YOU* (2008)

6 x 4 in Postcard

Postcard signed in 2010 by New York-based trans-genre artist Mx Justin Vivian Bond.

fierce pussy saw a photo of Mx Justin Vivian Bond, with one of fierce pussy’s List posters hanging over their bed, in the book *Justin Bond / Jackie Curtis*, by Hilton Als, published by After Dark Publishing (2010).

and

the original non-signed postcard.

At the invitation of fierce pussy and Beeler Gallery, on Nov. 15, 2018, Bond performed their first Midwest concert at the historic Southern Theatre in Downtown Columbus. A conversation between Joy Episalla and Bond took place at Beeler Gallery on Nov. 16, 2018.

5. Black and white photographs showing the wheatpasting activities of original List poster on the streets of New York (1991)

(from top)

- Pam Brandt, Zoe Leonard, Donna Evans, Jean Carlomusto
- Nancy Brooks Brody holding posters
- Nancy Brooks Brody

6. Envelope and letter from Camp Sister Spirit (1994)

In response to a letter fierce pussy sent to Camp Sister Spirit, in Overt, Mississippi. Founded in 1993 by Wanda and Brenda Henson, Camp Sister Spirit was committed to women's issues and hosted women's festivals and pagan celebrations. The wild lands provided a safe space for women/ womyn, LGBTQ folks, through workshops, festivals, and weekend retreats. An annual statewide summit meeting and training for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists was hosted.

The Hensons saw the fierce pussy mobile in 1994 when they visited Stonewall 25, the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and reached out to fierce pussy.

7. The Highs and Lows of 1993, Ms. Magazine, Jan/Feb 1994 issue (1994)

This photocopy was faxed to Pam Brandt, a one-time member of fierce pussy.

8. Original invitation to Amazing dyke party on March 7, 1992, a fundraiser for fierce pussy (1992)

9. fierce pussy Mobile (1995)

Color photographs

A DIY mobile billboard for the weekend of Stonewall 25, the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. This was the first time fierce pussy used color copy. They distributed pamphlets for City AIDS Action, a working group of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), a direct advocacy group where members of fierce pussy met in 1991.

Participants included:

- Andrea Benzacar
- Pam Brandt
- Andy Cohen
- Joy Episalla
- Allison Froling
- David Horii
- Barbara Hughes
- Keran James
- Gill Ord
- Suzanne Wright
- Carrie Yamaoka

Table Vitrine

Bathroom Project at Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, New York City (1995)

A site-specific installation in the women's bathroom made as part of the exhibition "Outhouses" at the New York Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, incorporating a billboard-sized poster, messages etched on mirrors inside the stalls, and an edition of custom-printed toilet paper.

fierce pussy Toilet Paper (1994)

First edition

For The Record, for the book *Ce que le sida m'a fait (What AIDS Has Done To Me: Art & Activism in the late 20th Century)*, by Elisabeth Lebovici (2017)

Writer, critic, and art historian Elisabeth Lebovici served as the arts and culture editor for the daily French newspaper *Libération* from 1991 to 2006. Her book won the 2017 Pierre Daix Prize, an award given to an art history book covering modern or contemporary art in France.

Transmission 1 (2016)

Artforum Summer 2016 Issue

Transmission 2 (2017)

The Archive, Winter 2017

Published by the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, New York City.

Letter from Carrie Yamaoka to Eleanor Savage at Forbidden Fruit (1994)

Floor

Transmission 3 (2018)

Made for free distribution as part of Season Zero: *How well do you behave? IN THE FLAT FIELD.*, Feb. 1 – March 25, 2018 at Beeler Gallery at Columbus College of Art & Design.

fierce pussy performed for the first time as a collective, with *Transmission 3*, on Feb. 8, 2018 at Beeler Gallery.

Short Wall

Twisted

Treatment Action Group

Limited Edition 2010

fierce pussy

Individually redacted, white-out on photocopy
and wood frame

Limited edition of 25 originals

***gutter* (2009)**

wheatpasted black and white photocopies

The project grew out of fierce pussy's residency at the Lesbian Herstory Archives, New York, an archive, community center, and museum dedicated to preserving lesbian history. The Archives contain the world's largest collection of materials by and about lesbians.

"Working with their vast collection of lesbian pulp novels (1940s-1970s), we excerpted and redacted a number of texts to reveal alternate narratives. We were interested in the malleability of language, the relationship between reading, editing and authorship, and the activity of reading as a place, or space, in which we locate and explore our desire."

The first iteration of *gutter* was included in the exhibition *Tainted Love* at La Mama Galleria, New York City (2009). In the adjacent alley, Extra Place, fierce pussy wheatpasted a block-long 'mural.'

gutter was later installed as a site-specific work at Harvard Art Museum/Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard Graduate School of Design, and the Carpenter Center for Visual Arts as part of *Act Up New York: Activism Art and the AIDS Crisis, 1987-1993*, while fierce pussy was artist-in-residence at Carpenter Center for Visual Arts, Harvard University.

Wall Near Exit

**Portrait of Nancy Brooks Brody, Joy Episalla,
Zoe Leonard, and Carrie Yamaoka (2014) by
Alice O'Malley**

Silver gelatin print

13 ¾ x 10 ¾ in

A/P 5/5

Nancy Brooks Brody

Joy Episalla

Zoe Leonard

Carrie Yamaoka

Season One

Oct. 2, 2018

/

March 17, 2019

fierce pussy amplified