



Art, Activism, and Sexual Violence

Edited by Sally L. Kitch and Dawn R. Gilpin

Highlights the role of creative expression in exposing, preventing, and combatting sexual violence

Since 2017 the #MeToo movement has expanded cultural awareness of the pervasiveness of sexual assault and tacit support for rape culture in the United States and beyond. Despite its ubiquity, sexual assault is one of the most underreported crimes in the world in part because of the mistreatment and misunderstanding survivors often face from their communities and the legal system.

Art, Activism, and Sexual Violence brings together creative work, in multiple genres, with analyses of the historical and cultural contexts of sexual violence from intersectional feminist perspectives. Together, contributors illuminate the power of artists—as victims, survivors, and allies—to combat sexual violence through creative expression in partnership with historians, anthropologists, sociologists, journalists, and gender scholars. Showcasing dance, textile arts, painting, new media images, drama, and other creative forms, this volume embraces artistic expression’s transformative potential and inspires readers to action, mutual recognition, resistance, and resilience.

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Visual Studies, Performing Arts

february 2024

248 Pages, 6 x 9 in, 16 color illus., 24 b&w illus.

\$35.00/ £26.99 PB/ISBN 9780295752105

Sally L. Kitch is University and Regents Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at Arizona State University. Her many books include *Contested Terrain: Reflections with Afghan Women Leaders* and *The Specter of Sex: Gendered Foundations of Racial Formation in the United States*.

Dawn R. Gilpin is assistant dean and associate professor at Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, where her research focuses on mediated social systems. She is coauthor of *Crisis Management in a Complex World*.

“Attentive, accessible, and sensitive writing that not only engages with a range of issues related to sexual violence but genuinely bears witness via the writing.”

- Basia Sliwinska, editor of *Feminist Visual Activism and the Body*

“This diverse cohort of scholars, administrators, artists, and makers have collectively excavated how activism and art serve as a social force in facing the impacts of sexual assault and shame. This significant work should serve as a template for educators, activists, curators, and organizers to engage innovatively with their publics and think about the power of arts advocacy in our everyday lives.”

- Hinda Mandell, author of *Sex Scandals, Gender, and Power in Contemporary American Politics*

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Dr. Stephanie Leigh Batiste is Associate Professor of English at The University of California at Santa Barbara and Director of the Hemispheric South/s Research Initiative. Her research and teaching areas include African American literature and culture, race and racism, Black performance studies, American studies, cultural studies, and U.S. history. Her award-winning book, *Darkening Mirrors: Imperial Representation in Depression Era African American Performance*, focuses on the relationship between power and identity in black theater, film, and dance. She is co-editor of the NYU Book Series Performance and American Culture. Also a creative writer and performer, she has written three plays: *Stacks of Obits*, *Young Love Found and Lost: Six Poems in a Circle* and *Blue Gold & Butterflies* and done collaborative adaptations and original work with students. She has performed her solo show *Stacks of Obits* about street murder in Los Angeles nationally and internationally.

Dr. Elaina Behounek is an Assistant Professor in Sociology and Criminal Justice at Middle Georgia State University. She studies intimate partner violence, sexual assault, fear of crime, and educational inequality. Her work has included explorations into emotional labor and burnout by domestic violence and sexual assault advocates. Among her publications is a recent article titled “The Safety of Women and Girls in Educational Settings: A Global Overview and Suggestions for Policy Change.” She is a member of the American Society of Criminology and the American Sociological Association.

Sydney Burrows is a dancer, writer, and digital strategist and Master’s student in English at the University of Rochester in New York. She also serves as the Assistant Director for Digital Strategy and Engagement at the University of Rochester Office of Advancement and assistant

editor of *DIY Dancer*, an online and print international dance magazine. She is also a company member of PUSH Physical Theatre. Recent magazine articles include “#MeToo: Sexual Assault and the Arts” and pieces about dance as cultural celebration and a means of connection during COVID-19 isolation.

T De Long (formerly Tara De Long) is a New York City-based, internationally known rap artist whose work has been performed and exhibited in museums, galleries, and festivals around the world. De Long has released both solo and collaborative albums, as well as appeared in and produced art films, performance projects, and videos. De Long was a member of original lo-fi hip-hop group, Bedroom Productions, formed in the mid '90s by Snax and De Long, then in TJ Free, which created a totally unique blend of hip-hop, electronic, and punk on their two albums. T has produced and curated music and performance art programs, including the founding of the Warm Up series at MoMA PS1. In 2007, De Long transitioned to T De Long. T was also a partner and artistic collaborator with Chloe Dzubilo. T serves as the executor of Chloe's estate in collaboration with Participant Inc.

Dr. Alesha Durfee is Professor and Chair of Women's and Gender Studies at St. Louis University. Her service, research, and teaching focus on intersectionality, gender-based violence, and domestic violence. She coordinated the Clothesline Project for several years while at Arizona State University and has been a volunteer domestic violence advocate. Her work has been published in journals such as *Violence Against Women*, *Gender & Society*, *Feminist Criminology*, and *Feminist Teacher*. She has received numerous grants and fellowships, including a National Institute of Justice Researcher-Practitioner partnership grant, a National Science Foundation grant (with Dr. Jill Messing), and a writing fellowship from the Women's International Study Center.

Dr. Dawn R. Gilpin is assistant dean for research and associate honors professor at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Her work explores cultural dynamics within and around mediated social systems, from organizations to communities to subcultures, and narrative flows of power through media. In recent years she has focused her research attention largely on gun culture in the United States, alongside emergent cultures and issues of mis- and disinformation within global information environments. In work co-authored with Leslie-Jean Thornton she has used visual imagery and memes as entry points into these subject areas.

Dr. Jasmin M. Goodman is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Communication, Culture, and Media Studies at Howard University. A critical race, gender, and media scholar, her work focuses primarily on social media, digital streaming, and Black popular culture. She has recently expanded her research to include social justice and activism. She is also founder and principal of The J. Michelle Group, a strategic intelligence and engagement firm that specializes in using research and strategy to help brands, companies, and government agencies develop culturally responsible and engaging strategies for diverse populations.

Clarity Haynes is a queer feminist artist, writer and educator living in New York City. They are best known for their Breast Portrait Project: a multidisciplinary, socially engaged work that is grounded in the practice of painting from observation and features unconventional painted portraits of torsos, focusing on queer, trans, cis female and nonbinary bodies. More recently, they created Birth Altar (2020–21), a life-size celebration of the bravery and resilience conveyed by images of childbirth. They teach drawing at Brooklyn College and painting at Trestle Gallery and are a member of the Corpus VI and tART collectives.

Luzene Hill is a multimedia artist, best known for socially engaged conceptual installations and performances. Her work reflects interdisciplinary scholarship in visual art, women's studies and pre-contact culture of the Americas. Recent work, employing Indigenous matrilineal motifs, asserts female agency and challenges male dictated hierarchies. An enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Hill lives and works in Atlanta, Georgia. Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Russia, Japan and the United Kingdom. Recent residencies include a 2020 Social Engagement Artist Residency and 2020 Invited Artist Residency, Anderson Ranch Arts Center. Hill's work is featured in the PBS documentary, "Native Art NOW!".

Dr. Jennifer Karash-Eastman is Director of St. Bonaventure University's Sexual Assault Campus Prevention Program in Allegany, New York. The program is funded through the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. Her research addresses various issues within the fields of women's studies, gender theory, and social justice activism, including migrant writings, particularly within the Spanish-speaking world. In addition to journal articles, including "Women in the Future of the Theology of Liberation," she has contributed an entry about the Caribbean to a volume entitled *Gender and Identity around the World*. She also works as a trainer and educator, developing and marketing educational materials as a digital learning specialist and consultant.

Dr. Sally L. Kitch is University and Regents' Professor of Women and Gender Studies at Arizona State University. She is also Founding Director of ASU's Institute for Humanities Research and the Humanities Lab and was named a Distinguished Sustainability Scientist in ASU's Global Futures Laboratory in 2017. Kitch specializes in cultural, racial, and feminist theory, U.S. women's history, gender ideologies and the environment, and feminist

epistemology. She is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters, as well as seven books, three of which have won national prizes. Recent publications include *The Specter of Sex: Gendered Foundations of Racial Formation in the United States*, *Contested Terrain: Reflections with Afghan Women Leaders*, “Protection and Abuse: The Conundrum of Global Gender Inequality,” and “Eco-Sin: A View from the Pandemic.”

Elizabeth Johnson Levine is a choreographer, dancer, and educator with a focus in socially engaged dance practices. Her work connects communities through choreography, creating dance that promotes civic dialogue, and designing participatory experiences that apply artistic practices in multiple contexts. She has special interest in working with youth and elders, developing embodied structures for learning, and promoting leadership development and health through the arts. In addition to her dance training in the U.S., she has studied at London Contemporary Dance School and taught and performed internationally. She is currently the Associate Artistic Director of Dance Exchange (formerly Liz Lerman Dance Exchange). She was Creative Co-Director (with Nik Zaleski) of *CounterAct* at Arizona State University, a multiyear campus wide arts-based initiative for sexual violence prevention, from 2016-19.

Ruta Butkus Marino is a textile artist living in Beachwood, Ohio. Her recent body of work uses the medium of quilts to tell the story of sexual assault. A former librarian and Senior Curator at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University in New York State, Marino is now the Administrative Assistant for the Psychology Department and the Exercise Science and Sports Studies Department at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. She served as the Coordinator of *The Artist as Quiltmaker* Biennial exhibition at the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts in Oberlin, Ohio, from 2010-2020. She also completed a quilt about human trafficking in 2020.

Deborah Martin is Professor of Latin American Film and Culture at University College London. She is the author of three books, *The Child in Contemporary Latin American Cinema* (2019), *The Cinema of Lucrecia Martel* (2016) and *Painting, Literature and Film in Colombian Feminine Culture 1940-2005: Of Border Guards, Nomads and Women* (2012), as well as numerous articles and book chapters on Latin American cinema. With Deborah Shaw (Portsmouth University) she is co-editor of the book *Latin American Women's Film-making: Production, Politics, Poetics* (2017). Deborah Martin is currently working on feminist and environmentalist activism in Latin America and its relationship with film and visual culture.

Dr. Nicola Olsen is an independent scholar, educator, and theatre artist. She specializes in theater for youth and the cultural/social significance of art. Olsen is a working director and dramaturg and served as dramaturg on a mainstage production of *Machos* during the pandemic. She has a background in high school teaching and administration of fine arts departments in secondary education.

Jennifer Patterson is a grief worker who uses plants, breath, and words to explore survivorhood, body(ies) and healing. A queer and trans affirming and centering, trauma-experienced herbalist and breathwork facilitator, Jennifer offers sliding scale care through her private practice *Corpus Ritual*. She is the author of *The Power of Breathwork: Simple Practices to Promote Wellbeing* (Quarto) and editor of the anthology *Queering Sexual Violence: Radical Voices from Within the Anti-Violence Movement* (2016). She has published her work in *VIDA: Women in Literary Arts*, *580 Split*, *OCHO: A Journal of Queer Arts*, and *The Feminist Wire*. She has an MA from Goddard College.

Dr. Emily Bonistall Postel is the State Director of Marsy's Law for Kentucky, the bipartisan effort that successfully secured constitutional rights for crime victims in Kentucky. She leads a

broad coalition of state legislators, victim advocates, community organizations, survivors, staff, students, and volunteers. As a subject matter expert in Victimology, she is an educator and activist whose work is based on a commitment to the welfare of crime victims and pays particular attention to the ways research and practice intersect to effect social change.

Dr. Deborah Shaw is Professor of Film and Screen Studies at the University of Portsmouth, and Research Lead for the School of Film, Media and Communication. Her research interests include transnational film theory, Latin American cinema, film and migration, and screen studies and gender and sexuality, and she has published widely in these areas. She is the founding co-editor of the Routledge journal *Transnational Cinemas* (now *Transnational Screens*). Her books include *Contemporary Latin American Cinema: Ten Key Films* (2003), *The Three Amigos: The Transnational Filmmaking of Guillermo del Toro, Alejandro González Iñárritu, and Alfonso Cuarón* (2013). Co-edited books include *The Transnational Fantasies of Guillermo del Toro* (2014), *Latin American Women Filmmakers: Production, Politics, Poetics* (2017), and *Sense8: Transcending Television* (2021, 2022).

Susanne Slavick is an artist, curator, and university professor emerita at Carnegie Mellon University. Her curatorial projects include: *When the Bough Breaks* (2019); *Marx@200* (2018); and the traveling exhibits *Unloaded* (2015-19), exploring the impact of guns in U.S. culture, and *Out of Rubble* (2011-15), featuring international artists responding to the aftermath of war. Slavick has exhibited her own work across six continents, most recently at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum in New York City. Her work has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. In 2019, she received the College Art Association Distinguished Teaching of Art Award. Selected essays and articles have appeared in: *Journal of Visual Culture*; *Technology and Culture*; *Formations of*

Identity: Society, Politics, and Landscape; Cairo: Images of Transition; Hyperallergic, Cultural Heritage and Arts Review; Cultural Politics; Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies; and Guernica: A Magazine of Art & Politics.

Dr. Wei Sun is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Communication, Culture and Media Studies at Howard University. She is a Fulbright Specialist in Communications/Journalism. Dr. Sun's research interests include intercultural communication, new media studies, and health communication. Her recent publications have appeared in the journal of Qualitative Research Reports in Communication, Journal of Faculty Development, The Howard Journal of Communications, etc. Her scholarly works have been included in many academic books. Currently, she is the guest editor for a special issue on Covid-19 for the Howard *Journal of Communications*.

Dr. Steven Tepper is the dean of the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona State University. Tepper, a sociologist, is a leading writer and speaker on higher education and U.S. cultural policy and his work has fostered national discussions around topics of cultural engagement, creative work and careers, art and democracy, and the transformative possibilities of a 21st century creative campus. He is the author of *Not Here, Not Now, Not That! Protest Over Art and Culture in America* and co-editor and contributing author to *Engaging Art: The Next Great Transformation of America's Cultural Life*. He has published widely on the topic of education and careers in publications such as the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Education*, the *Huffington Post*, *FastCompany*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Dr. Leslie-Jean Thornton is an associate professor at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication. Formerly a journalist, she retains an avid interest in how information is shared online. As an academic, she explores what those

messages mean in the broader context of history, culture, society, and changing technology. As a practicing artist, Thornton has most recently focused on how the news is shaped and shared visually. She intends for her work with #MeToo imagery to give voice to the voiceless and make visible that which is hard to see. She has published about Twitter and gender issues in *Sex Roles* and about visual communication in *Visual Communication Quarterly* and in several book chapters.

Nik Zaleski is a facilitator, narrative artist and intimate somatics coach rooted primarily in the reproductive justice movement. She founded several companies and projects at the intersection of health and the arts, including For Youth Inquiry Participatory Theater Company, Swarm Artist Residency and Ag47 Artist Mentorship Collective. She is an Ensemble Member of Sojourn Theatre, Erasing the Distance and For Youth Inquiry. Nik co-directed CounterAct at Arizona State University from 2016-2019. She currently consults on organizational development, arts-based organizing, and storytelling for various organizations through her cultural strategy company, Murmur.