



Feminism and the Modern Avant- Garde

Today's Class (and readings)

Part 1 – Early Twentieth Century Feminism

- Beauvoir

Part 2 – Early Twentieth Century Avant-Garde Women's Art

- Felski
- Saint Point
- Stein

Part 3 –Feminism and Avante-Garde Art

Group Exercise

Work together in groups of three or four to create a definition of feminism (no electronic devices, please).

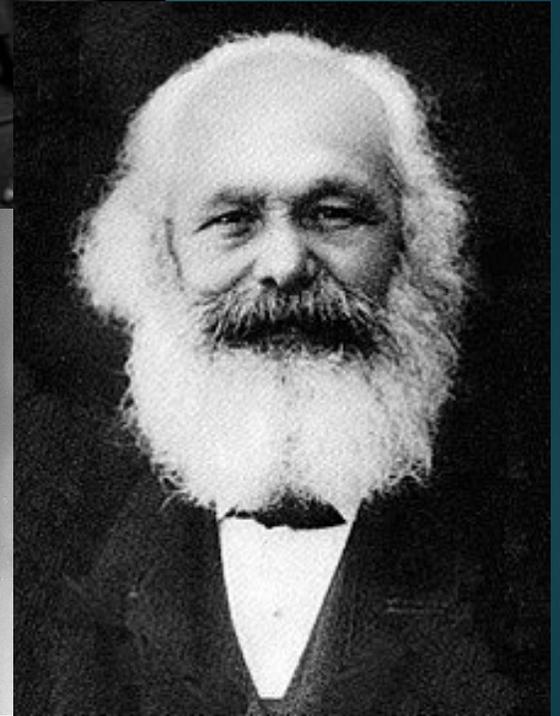
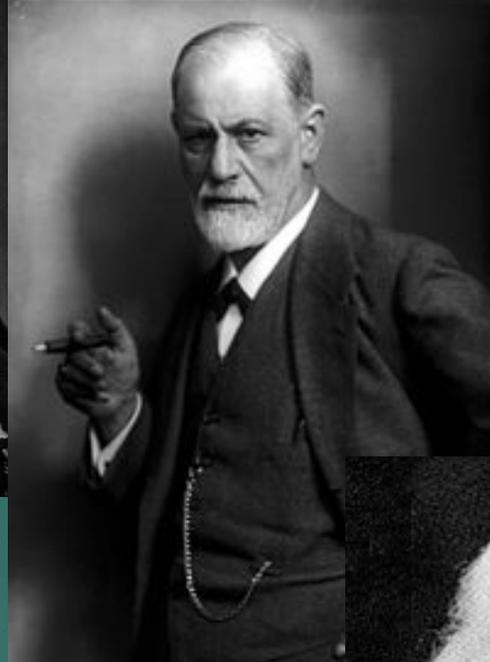
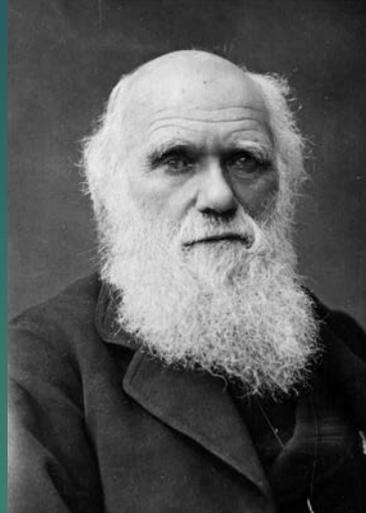




Feminism from the Enlightenment to 1970

Philosophical Influences

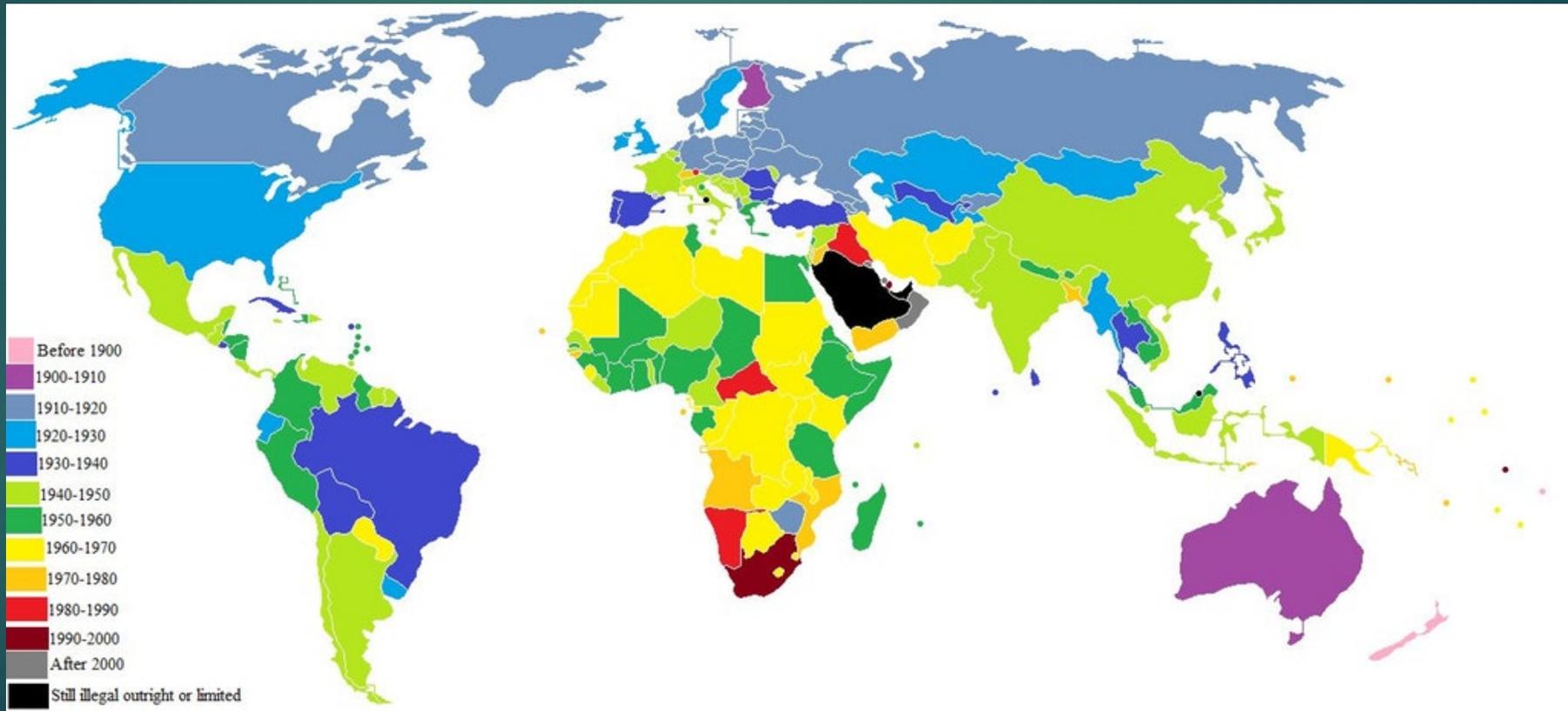
- ▶ Evolution (Darwin, 1808-1882, English)
- ▶ Marxism (Karl Marx, 1818-1883, German)
- ▶ Psychoanalysis (Freud, 1850-1939, Austrian)
- ▶ Existentialism (Sartre, 1905-1980, French)



Major Feminist Issue – Women's Suffrage

Timeline of Women's Suffrage Worldwide

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-qTa1yPfg>



Major Issue – Coverture



Source: <http://groundedparents.com/2015/03/19/mrs-name-of-man- maiden-names-and-coverture/>

Major Issue – Women in the Public Sphere

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQUaUY4hJeQ>



<http://www.penelopeironstone.com/CS203PublicSphere.htm>

Major Issue – Education



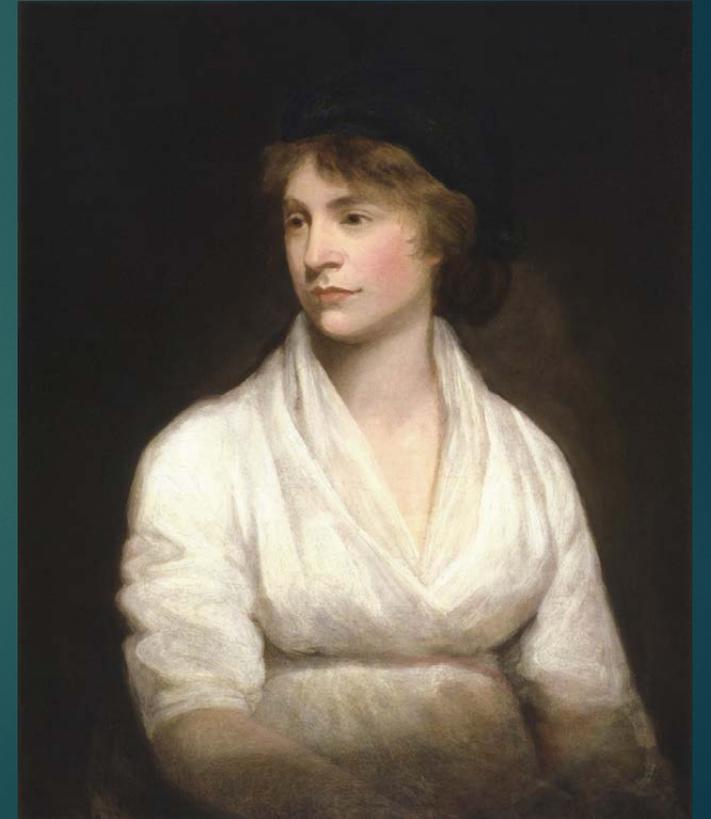
<http://www.connerprairie.org/education-research/indiana-history-1860-1900/lives-of-women>

Early Twentieth Century Feminisms

- ▶ Enlightenment Liberal Feminism
- ▶ Nineteenth Century Cultural Feminism

Enlightenment Liberal Feminist Beliefs

- ▶ Gender is a social construct
- ▶ Women and men are ontologically identical (their souls are the same)
- ▶ Rational thought will lead to the greater good because God (or consciousness) developed rational thought.
- ▶ Educating women can transform society.
- ▶ Individual dignity depends on independence.
- ▶ People have natural rights, including the right to vote.



Enlightenment Liberal Feminist Theorists

1851-1858, **Harriet Taylor and John Stuart Mill**

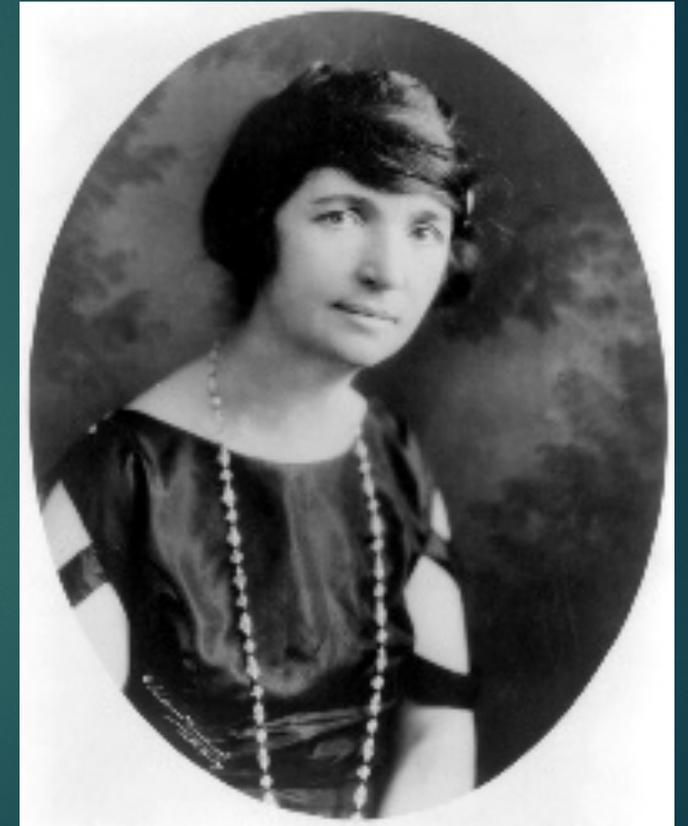
- ▶ Women are subjugated because men want it that way
- ▶ Complete civil and political equality
- ▶ Abolition of all laws relating to marriage
- ▶ Mill, “We ought...not to ordain that to be born a girl instead of a boy, any more than to be born black instead of white, or a commoner instead of a nobleman, shall decide the person’s position through all life.”



Nineteenth Century Cultural Feminist Concerns

- ▶ They opposed Darwin's theories and believed that social Darwinism requires cooperative, not competitive, skills.
- ▶ They wanted a broader cultural transformation
- ▶ They felt that men and women qualities are different, and those differences must be balanced. Women's qualities include creativity, being life-affirming, and being pacifist.
- ▶ They felt that women should enter the public sphere and vote to clean up the moral mess men made.
- ▶ They thought women should separate themselves from men to learn self-reliance and collectivity as women to discover who they are.
- ▶ They were critical of religion (proposed pre-Christian matriarchy)
- ▶ They wanted equal pay for equal work, 8 hour work days, and trade unions for women.

“The cultural feminists in the Progressive Movement also were among the first to evince concern over environmental degradation and thus anticipated in certain respects the contemporary ecofeminist movement.”



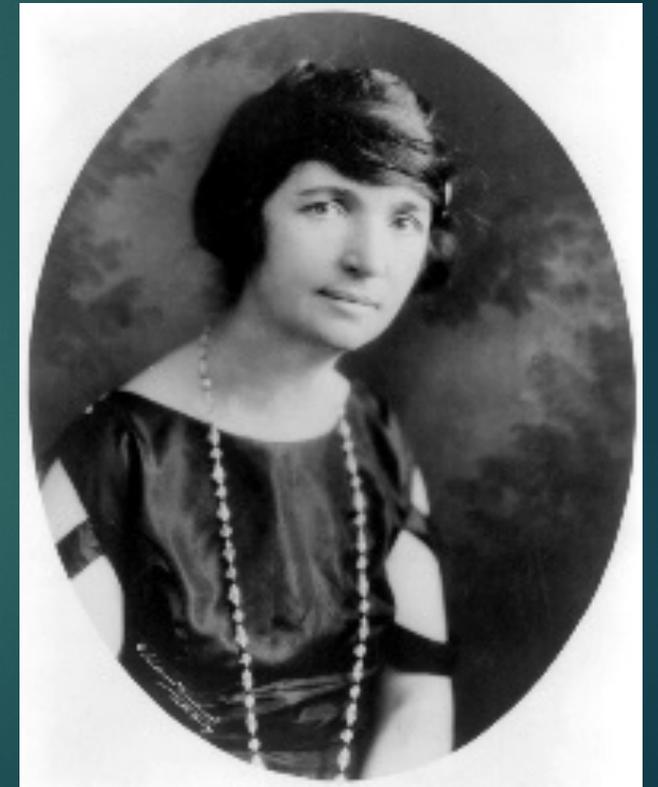
Nineteenth Century Cultural Feminists

1845, **Margaret Fuller (American journalist)**, “Woman in the Nineteenth Century,” started the cultural feminist tradition

Jane Addams (American Social Activist), started the settlement movement, and believed educated young women needed to be engaged in social change, and that as wives and mothers, women have distinctive interests and should be allowed to defend those interests

International Congress of Women at the Hague 1915

- ▶ Woodrow Wilson used many of their proposals in his “Fourteen Points.” What Wilson didn’t use the right of women to vote and women to be included in the WWI peace conference
- ▶ Noted that women should protest against war because they’re often victims



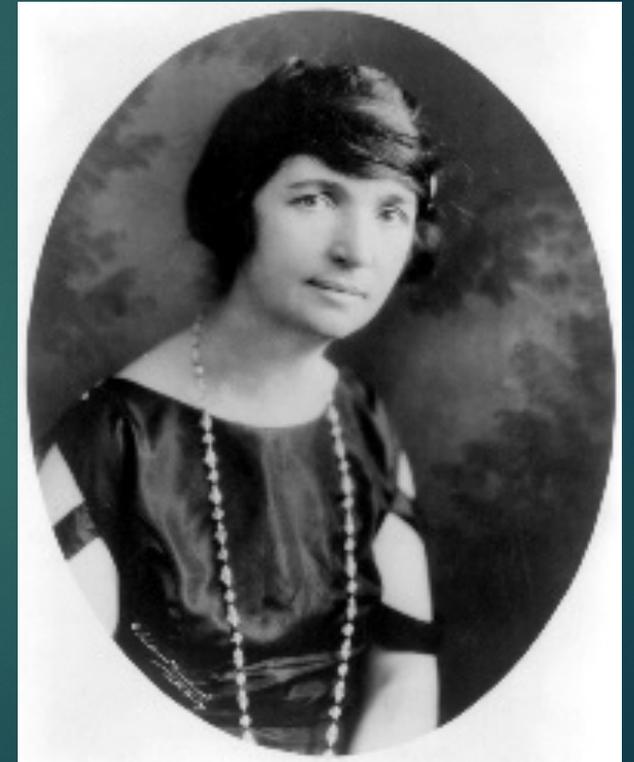
Differences between Enlightenment Liberal Feminism and Cultural Feminism



Which one would believe that:

Women should participate in the military?

Laws should protect women?





The International Women's Rights Movement

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.HISTORYTODAY.COM/MARTIN-PUGH/WOMENS-
MOVEMENT](http://www.historytoday.com/martin-pugh/womens-movement)

Origins



- 18th Century Enlightenment's political ideals
- The French Revolution
 - regarded all human beings as rational creatures who enjoyed the same fundamental rights
 - When the French Revolution broke out in 1789 thirty-three of the famous lists of grievances presented to the Estates General expressed female demands.
 - The intellectual excitement generated in France soon provoked feminist tracts elsewhere.

The Organized Movement

U.S. Seneca Falls Convention of 1848.



Lucretia Mott



Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Susan B.
Anthony



Sojourner Truth

Wrote the "Declaration of Sentiments"
(signed by both men and women)

The Catholic Church

- ▶ Countries where the Catholic Church was strongest (i.e. Spain, Italy, France) and the longest and hardest struggles.
- ▶ Italian women suffered from particularly severe legal discrimination; for example, while adultery was an offence for them, men could commit it without penalty. In 1898 and 1903 Italian feminists established pressure groups designed to reform the law for married women, open up the professions and win the vote, but they lacked popular support. The Church exercised its control over most of the population, and the political parties felt reluctant to become involved with women's issues.



The United States

At an anti-slavery convention in 1840 female delegates were prevented from taking their seats. This refusal to treat them equally led to a revolt and forced many women to ask how much difference there really was between the legal status of a slave and that of a woman.

After the 1860s, when Americans fought a civil war to establish political rights for blacks, the continued exclusion of white women from the electorate seemed intolerable.



Getting Together



- ▶ Women from countries that were successful at achieving some women's rights spoke in countries that were still struggling.
- ▶ Tracts on the subject of women's rights were translated and distributed across countries.
- ▶ In 1904, a second organization, the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, was set up in Berlin.
- ▶ Not much happened during World War I, years, but in the 1920s, women's involvement in peace movements galvanized women's organizations.

The Organized Movement

- ▶ Denmark had a Women's Association by 1871
- ▶ Sweden an Association for Married Women by 1873
- ▶ Norway an Association for the Promotion of Women's Interests by 1884
- ▶ and Finland a Women's Association in the same year.



Post-Suffrage Concerns



- ▶ When WWII started, women were encouraged to go to work to replace the men who went to war.
- ▶ When men returned from war, it was assumed women would give up their jobs and return home.
- ▶ During the 1920s and 1930s discrimination reached new levels in the labor force. Married women were frequently sacked on the grounds that they had husbands to support them; and new 'protective legislation' was widely enacted, ostensibly to spare women from working unsocial hours or from using dangerous materials, but in reality to maximize male employment opportunities.

Feminism: Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1996) The Second Sex (1949)



Beauvoir



- ▶ “It is through work that woman has been able, to a large extent, to close the gap separating her from the male; work alone can guarantee her concrete freedom.”
- ▶ “for a woman to accomplish her femininity, she is required to be object and prey; that is, she must renounce her claims as a sovereign subject. This is the conflict that singularly characterizes the situation of the emancipated woman.”
- ▶ “This world has always belonged to men and still retains the form they have imprinted on it.”
- ▶ “if men were content to love a peer instead of a slave...then women would be far less obsessed with their femininity.”



Discussion



Has your definition of feminism changed? If so, how?



The Early Twentieth Century Avant-Garde and Women Artists

Women Artists in Nineteenth Century France – The Met
[://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/19wa/hd_19wa.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/19wa/hd_19wa.htm)

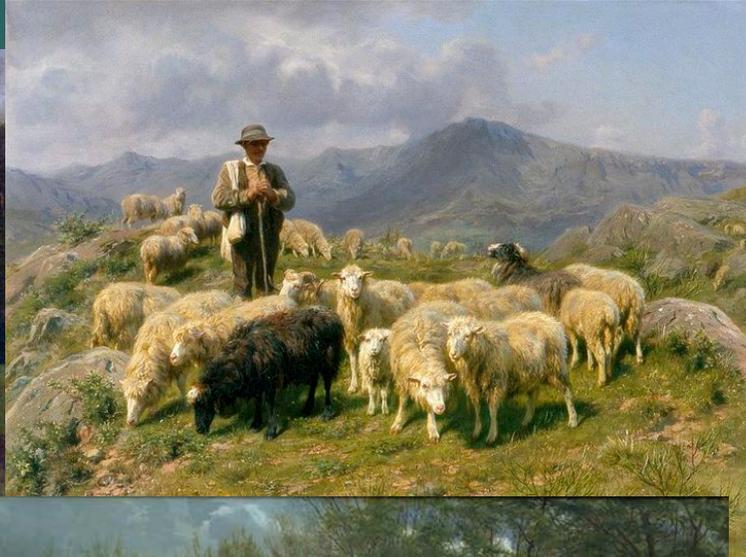
In groups of three or (preferably) four, select an artist to research.

- ▶ Rosa Bonheur (Courbet)
- ▶ Berthe Morisot (Monet)
- ▶ Marie Bracquemond
- ▶ Eva Gonzales
- ▶ Paula Modersohn-Becker
- ▶ Gabriele Muntz (Marc, Kandinsky)
- ▶ Emilie Chamy (Matisse, Roualt)
- ▶ Marie Laurencin (Braque, Picasso)
- ▶ Natalia Goncharova (Buccioni)
- ▶ Olga Razanova (Malevich, Chagall)
- ▶ Barbara Hepworth (Brancusi)

Instructions:

1. Select someone to take notes and someone to present your research.
2. Develop a brief biography of the writer, focusing on her training as an artist, her association with avant-garde artists and art forms, and her relationship to feminism.
3. Analyze the related image(s), if available, or select your own (if not available) and suggest similarities and differences between the female artist's work and that of her male counterpart.

Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899)



Gustave Courbet, 1819-1877



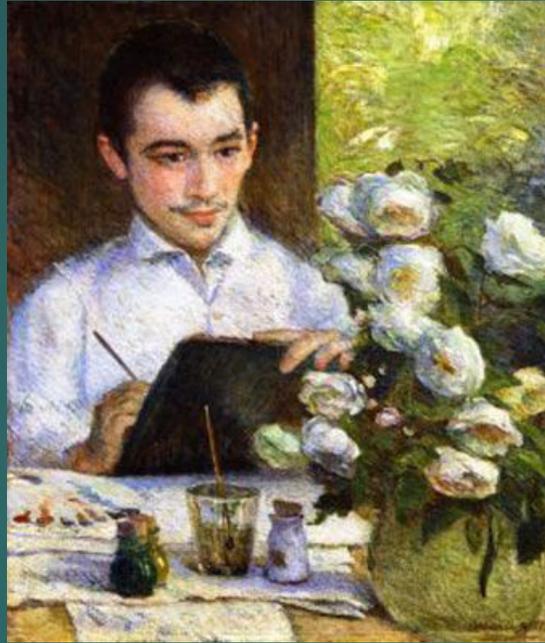
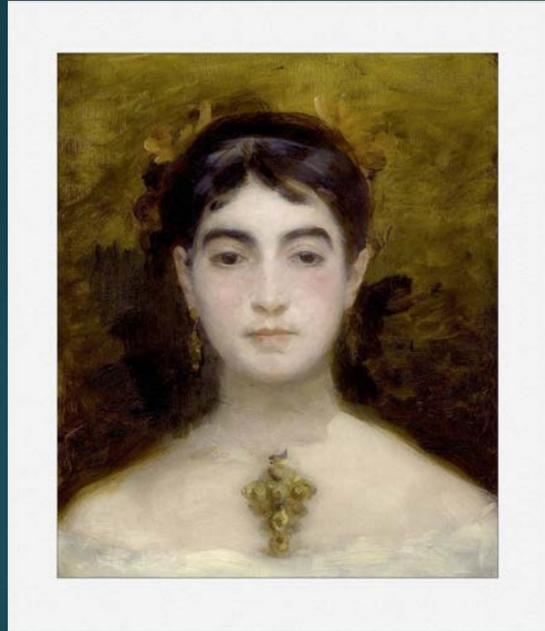
Berthe Morisot (1841-1895)



Claude Monet, 1840-1926



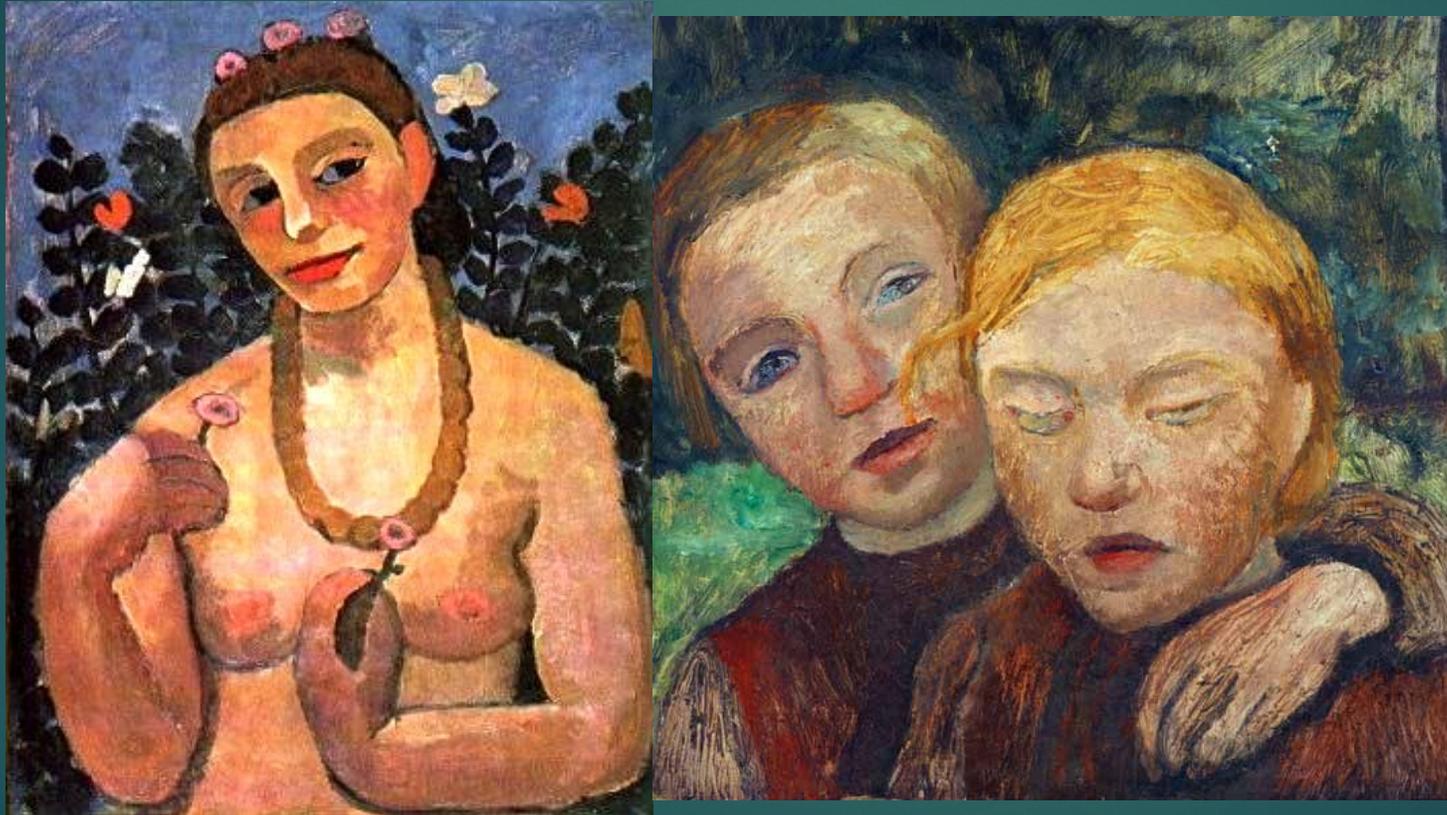
Marie Bracquemond
(1840-1916)



Eva Gonzales
(1849-1883)



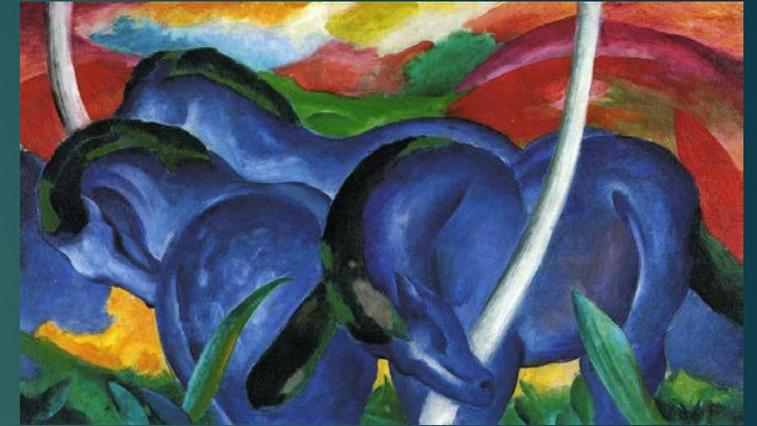
Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876-1907)



Gabriele Muntser (1877-1962)



Franz Marc (1880-1916)



Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944)



Emilie Charmy (1878-1974)

Henri Matisse
(1869-1954)



George Roualt
(1871-1958)



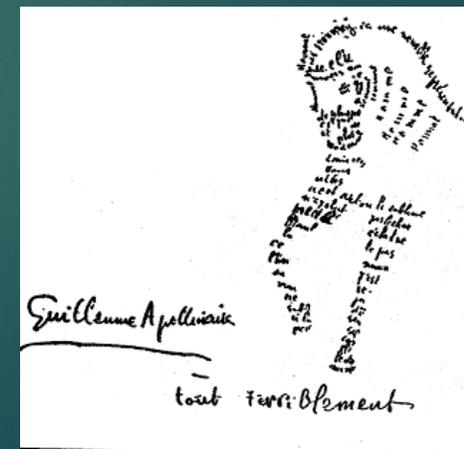
Marie Laurencin (1883-1956)

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)



Braque (1882-1963)

Guillaume
Apollinaire
(1880-1918)



Natalia Goncharova (1881-1962)



Umberto Boccioni
(1882-1916)



Olga Razanova (1886-1919)



Rozanova: Simultaneous Representation
of a King of Hearts and a King of Diamonds

Kazimir Malevich (1878-1935)



Marc Chagall (1887-1985)



Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975)



Constantin Brancusi (1876-1957)



Discussion



In 1971, Linda Nochlin wrote an essay entitled “Why are There no Great Women artists?” Based on our discussion so far, what might she have seen as impediments to women making art?

Valentine de Saint-Point, (1875-1953)



“Any exclusively virile individual is just a brute animal; any exclusively feminine individual is only a female.”

“The fecund periods, when the most heroes and geniuses come forth...are rich in masculinity and femininity.”

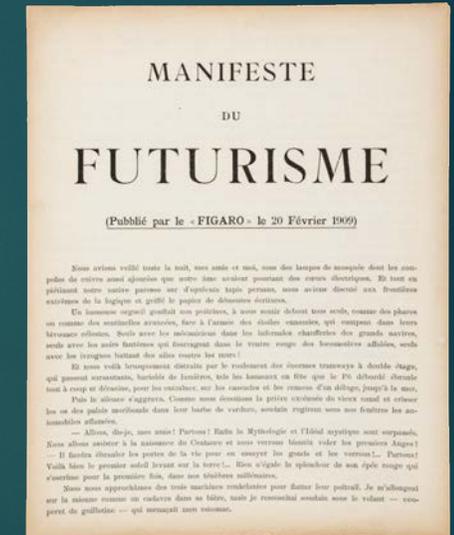
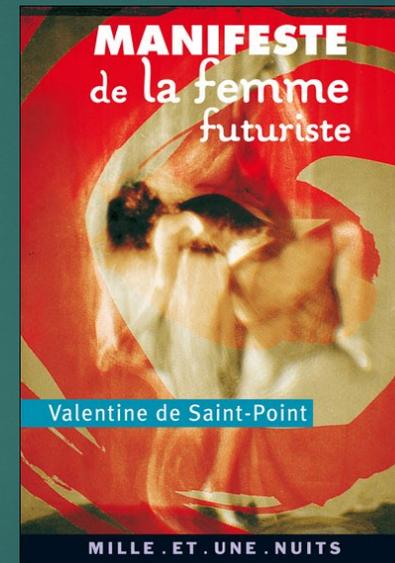
“To restore some virility to our races so benumbed in femininity, we have to train them in virility even to the point of brute animality.”

“Woman...is a warrior or a nurse.... So that is why no revolution should be without her.”

“We must not give women any of the rights claimed by feminists.”

“woman, become sublimely unjust once more, like all the forces of nature!”

Filippo Marinetti
(1876-1944)



Gertrude Stein (1874-1946)



Picasso

One whom some were certainly following was one who was completely charming. One whom some were certainly following was one who was charming. One whom some were following was one who was completely charming. One whom some were following was one who was certainly completely charming. Some were certainly following and were certain that the one they were then following was one working and was one bringing out of himself then something. Some were certainly following and were certain that the one they were then following was one bringing out of himself then something that was coming to be a heavy thing, a solid thing and a complete thing. One whom some were certainly following was one working and certainly was one bringing something out of himself then and was one who had been all his living had been one having something coming out of him. Something had been coming out of him, certainly it had been coming out of him, certainly it was something, certainly it had been coming out of him and it had meaning, a charming meaning, a solid meaning, a struggling meaning, a clear meaning. One whom some were certainly following and some were certainly following him, one whom some were certainly following was one certainly working.

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)



Discussion



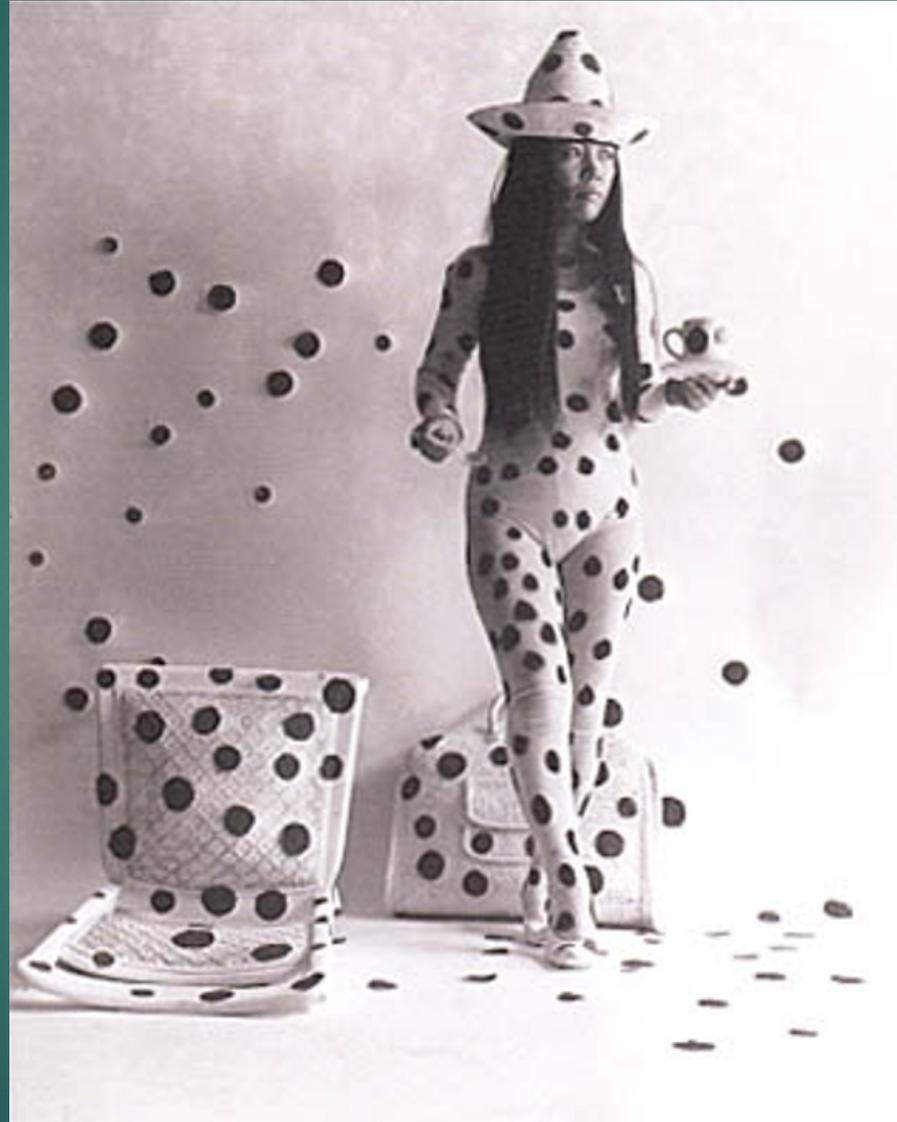
None of the artists and writers who we have discussed in this section identified as feminists or participated in feminist causes. Why might this be?



The Avant-Garde and Feminism

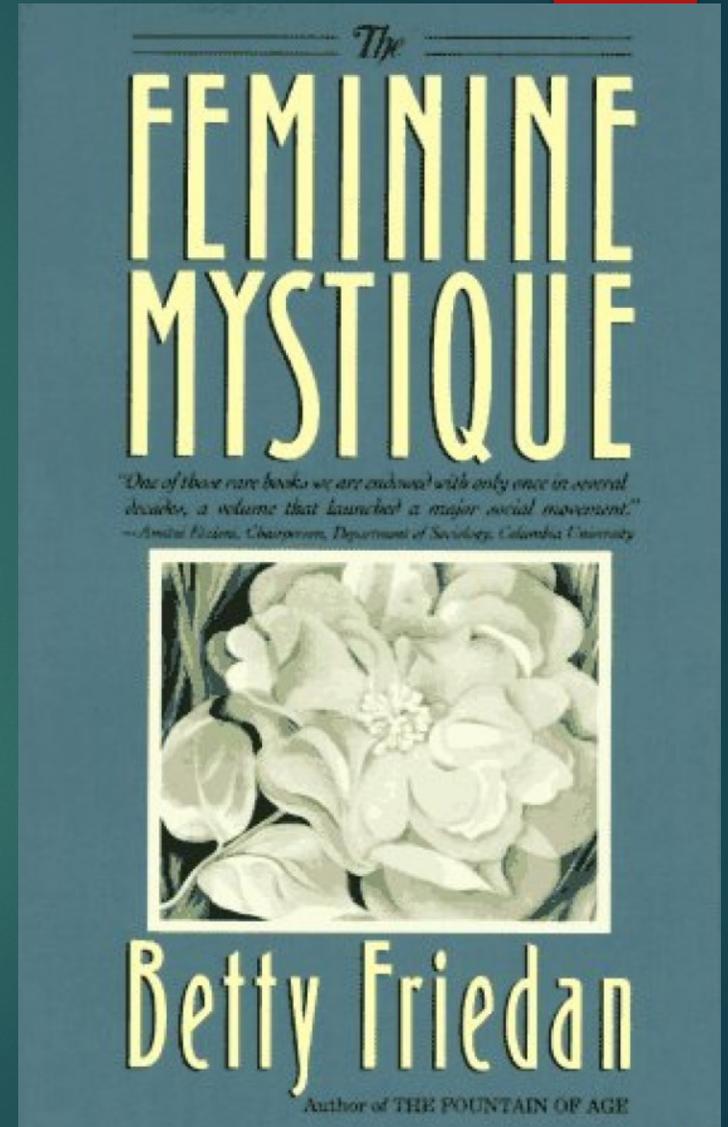
Yayoi Kasami

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pz8yUaUQsQs>



Betty Friedan (1921-2006)

The Feminine Mystique (1963)



Carolee Schneeman (1939-)

Schneeman, Carolee. "Meat Joy." Youtube. 1964.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tiVQFSG58Hs>



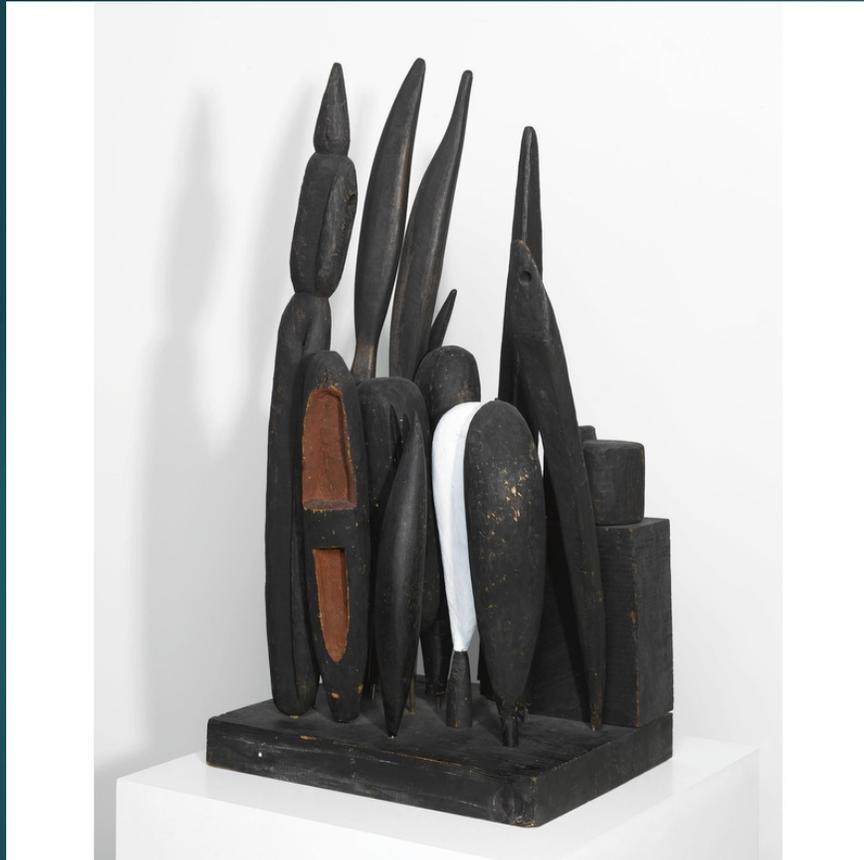
Yoko Ono

Cut Piece. Dir Albert and David Maysles. Perf. Yoko Ono. 1965. Web. 3 February 2013. Performance

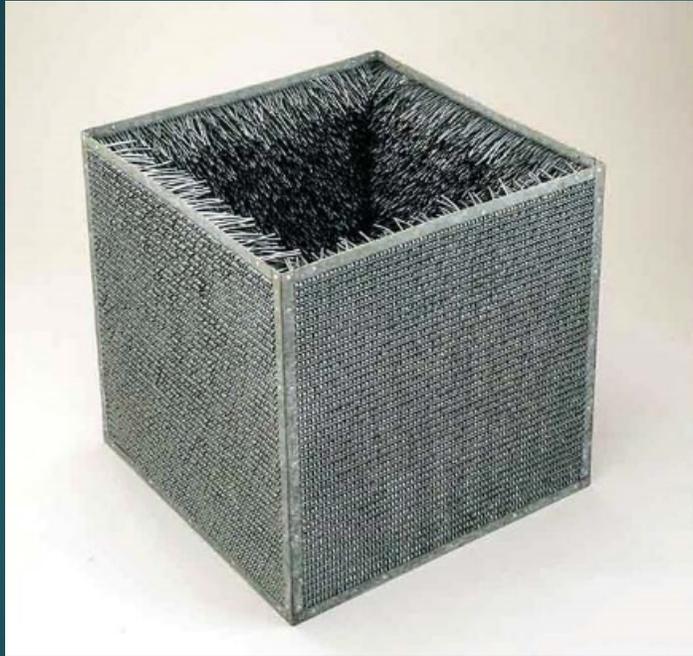
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYJ3dPwa2tl>



Louise Bourgeois (1911-2010)



Eva Hesse (1936-1970)



Discussion



How are feminist art and women's art of the modernist avant-garde different? In what ways are they the same? How do you account for these similarities and differences?