

WOMEN IN THE ARTS



12. MADE IN OUR CENTURY

December 9, 2024

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WHAT THEMES ENGAGE ARTISTS IN THE PRESENT CENTURY? Probably there is no simple answer, but the question at least gave me a handle on selecting between the dozens of artists I hoped to show. We shall see the work of 16 women, in dance, music, poetry, and the visual arts. They are arranged as a metaphorical journey, in four stages: looking back, missed connections, travel, and arrival. The works and artists chosen may not be the greatest or most representative, but their themes do have some resonance in the present time, especially for women. *rb.*

A. BACKWARD GLANCES

A surprising amount of work at the start of the millennium has been retrospective, either looking back at the artist's past or reinterpreting masterpieces from earlier centuries. Here are four examples.

Crystal Pite: *The Seasons Canon* (excerpt)

Schubert-Liszt: *Abschied*, opening (Valentina Lisista)

Judith Weir: *A Song of Departure* (Schubert Ensemble)

Carol Ann Duffy: *Premonitions* (read by the author)

Alice Oswald: *Memorial* (two readings by the author)

B. MISSED CONNECTIONS

Unfortunately, much of the art in the new century is about the failure to connect, in a world of segmentation, eroded norms, and personal despair. Yet isn't the courage to address such things also the proper province of the arts?

Lee-Houghton: *Beautiful Bodies* (read by the author)

Bausch: *Vollmond* (2006), excerpt

Bruyckere: *In Flanders Fields* (sculpture, 2000)

Bruyckere: *Archangels* (sculpture, 2020)

Video: Berlinde de Bruyckere interview

Bruyckere: *Speaking* (sculpture, 2000)

Chin: *Alice in Wonderland* (Munich, 2007), end of tea party

C. TRAVEL

The plight of political or economic migrants is a pressing issue of our times. This section also addresses the situation of artists who move to a distant country by individual choice, or who seek ways in their work to bring different peoples together.

Video: Crystal Pite in rehearsal

Pite: *Flight Pattern* (2016), excerpts; music by Henryk Gorecki

Roxanna Panufnik: *Three Paths to Peace* (2014), first half

Video: Mona Hatoum interview

Katarina Janeckova Walshe: *Secrets of a Happy Household*

D. ARRIVAL

This final section, on artists' work in their new country, is the logical continuation of the previous one. But this segment will concentrate entirely on artists in America of African heritage: one who emigrated, three who travel back and forth, and one whose ancestors came years ago against their will.

Njideka Akunyili Crosby montage

Warsan Shire: *Redemption* (from Beyoncé's *Lemonade*)

Nkeiru Okoye: *Shout* (from *Black Bottom*, 2020)

Amanda Gorman: *The Hill we Climb* (Biden inauguration, opening)

Sherrie Silver: Rwanda dance video (part)

Gorman and Silver at 2019 Women of the World summit

Pina **Bausch** (1940–2009, *German choreographer*), Berlinde de **Bruyckere** (1964–, *Flemish sculptor*), Unsuk **Chin** (1961–, *South Korean composer*), Njideka Akunyili **Crosby** (1983–, *Nigerian American painter*), Dame Carol Ann **Duffy** (1955–, *Scottish poet*), Amanda **Gorman** (1998–, *American poet*), Mona **Hatoum** (1952–, *Palestinian sculptor*), Melissa **Lee-Houghton** (1982–, *English poet*), Nkeiru **Okoye** (1972–, *American composer*), Alice **Oswald** (1966–, *English poet*), Roxanna **Panufnik** (1968–, *English composer*), Crystal **Pite** (1970–, *Canadian choreographer*), Warshan **Shire** (1988–, *Somali poet*), Sherrie **Silver** (1994–, *Rwandan choreographer*), Imani **Uzuri** (?1990–, *American songwriter*), Katarina Janeckova **Walshe** (1988–, *Slovakian American painter*), Dame Judith **Weir** (1954–, *English composer*)

The course website is www.brunyate.com/WomenArts
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