



The Female Gaze

August 27, 2020 - May 15, 2021

Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas

The Female Gaze

“The Male Gaze” began as a feminist theory within film, but quickly theorists began expanding its application to all forms of Western media and art. The term was coined by film critic Laura Mulvey within her essay “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” published in 1975. Mulvey theorizes that art and media develop images with the intended audience presumed to be cis, heterosexual, white, middle-class men; resulting in women being depicted as passive and hypersexualized objects, with little regard for female autonomy, experience, or pleasure. In 1989, the feminist activist art group the Guerrilla Girls reported that within the Modern Art section of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, 85 percent of the nudes on display featured women, but less than 5 percent of the artworks were created by female artists.

In response to the Male Gaze, rising awareness and the continuation of its presence in the fine arts, female artists in the 1980s began creating artworks that met the Male Gaze with their own gaze, a Female Gaze. These responses were diverse, from the reclamation of the female body



Delta Martin, *Say Our Names*, Print, 2020

to depictions of female narratives and perspectives. Some even flipped the script by hypersexualizing the male body.

This exhibition highlights artwork created by women artists, depicting female subjects, within the Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas’s Permanent Collection; focusing on the reclamation of the female body and depictions of female narratives and perspectives.

- Chaney Jewell, Curator

Exhibition List

Catalog cover: Cynthia Marks, *Keep it Under Your Hat*, Etching

Emma Amos, *American Girl*, Etching, 1974

Margaret Burroughs, *Student*, Linocut

Camille Billops, *Sea Never Dries*, Etching, 1973

Camille Billops, *I am Black, I am Black, I am Dangerously Black*,
Etching, 1973

Elizabeth Catlett, *Two Generations*, Lithograph, 1979

Barbara Delle Gregory, *Portrait of Susan Wells*, Oil on canvas

Kathe Kollwitz, *Woman Lost in Thought*, Lithograph, 1920

Delita Martin, *Say Our Name*, Print, 2020

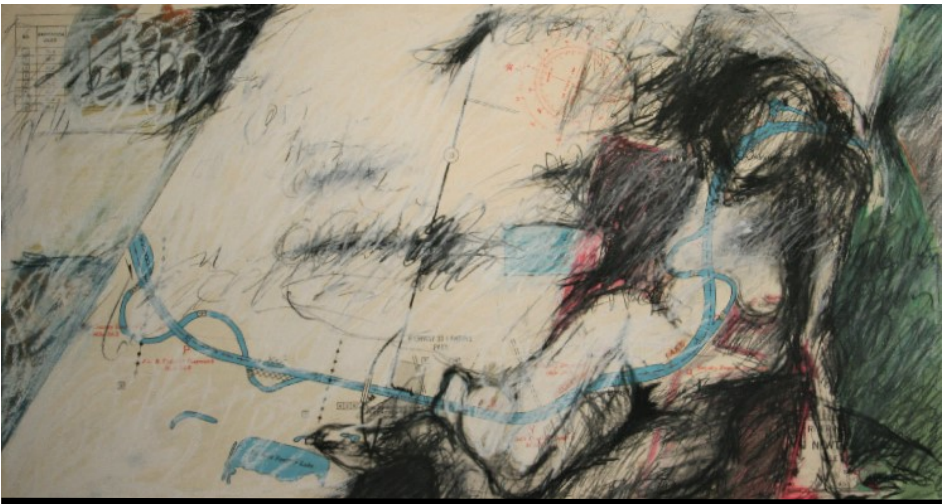
Reita Miller, *My Turn Today*, Watercolor, 1981

Dorothy Morrissey, *Young Girl #2*, Woodcut

Deborah C. Moseley, *Tyler County—1979*, Acrylic on canvas

Patricia Palmer, *She Lives*, Pastel, 2000

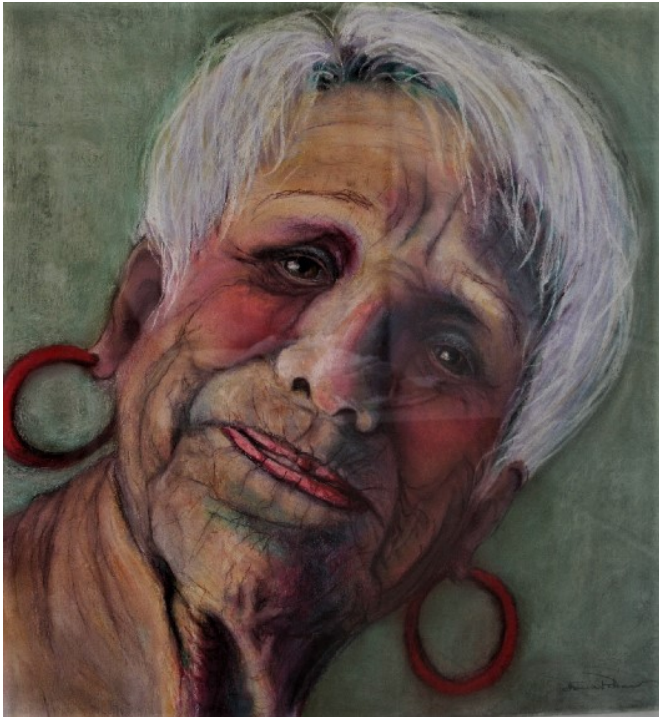
Virginia Williamson, *The Mask*, Mixed media



Kitty Mashburn, *Goddess #3*, Charcoal and pastel on paper

The Arts & Science Center has three aspects of collecting and exhibition: art of the Delta, art by Arkansas artists, and art by African American artists.

ASC is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a distinction held by fewer than 4% of museums in the United States.



Patricia Palmer, *She Lives*, 2000