

Statement of the Director

Sherri Cornett



Half the Sky: Intersections in Social Practice Art is designed to include a diversity of women, art forms and perspectives. It leaves room for the unexpected, for the opening up of connections and perspectives between all individuals participating in this project. In some small way, it may lead to a collective improvement in our larger communities and ripple out to regions, countries and the world as a whole. Getting the door open, through detente and diplomacy, can be an important first step towards evolution of thought on ALL sides of any question. We kept this tenet in mind when developing this project.

More than a side by side showing of works of women artists from different countries, this project as a whole is social practice art. It is a collection of collaborations, interactions, dialogue, performance, working groups, and community building that highlight social issues. It encompasses a delegation of U.S.-based artists and writers traveling to LuXun Academy of Fine Arts in Shenyang, China. It has interactive, participatory offerings created by these delegates to engage Chinese artists in ways that break through cultural and language differences. It is Chinese artists and the professors and students at LuXun Academy illuminating their art practices and methods. And, it is a myriad collection of art forms – from the traditional to the new – which expresses the unique perceptions of inner and outer worlds.

Diversity is seen in the women involved — women from across the U.S., China, Korea, Iran and Taiwan. It is seen in how the work was presented: from collaborators, from a collective, from individual artists, from a non-profit activism organization, and in the forms of art: installations, social practice art documentation, video, photography, painting, drawing, performance documentation, and sculpture. And in the foci of the works: storytelling, gender violence, environment, science, safety, homelessness, identity, peace, and community building.

We are carefully documenting this project. Preserving the legacy of self-identified women artists is a key focus of the Women's Caucus for Art. As some question the continued need for women-centric efforts, others agree that our media and museums still lack enough feminist content to inspire women to act; and that these efforts, and their documentation, are critical to our future.

For years my work has focused on building relationships between the social and political worlds through development of art and correlating events that engage viewers to question, to consider, and to act. These provide opportunities for conversation as well as formation of connections. In my experience, each of us comes to these interactions with a history that colors the way we think. Given encouragement and support, we can recognize the socially embedded context within which each of us speaks, judges and acts. We can look for ways to see the desire for connection behind all of this and to leave room to identify with each other. As one of my participants shared with me, "It is ordinary women sharing their extraordinary wisdom that makes us stronger." And that is how we, in this project, are holding up our half of the sky.

WCA is also an NGO (non-governmental organization) of the United Nations, which recognizes and encourages art that facilitates negotiation and that creates a sense that we all belong to the larger human community despite ethnic, cultural or religious differences. UN General Secretary, Ban Ki-Moon, and the former Head of UN Women, Michelle Bachelet, have supported the notion that we cannot succeed in global efforts to improve situations for all citizens until the

wisdom and experiences of women are more largely included in our problem solving. We need to empower women and do it in ways that allow them to be effective in their own cultures. The UN sees art as an essential tool in this effort. This project is a manifestation of WCA's response to these UN objectives.

目录册声明 - 雪莉·科内特的话

半边天：是社会实践艺术的交会点，是设计给各类地女性、不同的艺术及意见。替未知留下空间并开阔了参与计划的每个人相互交流与交换意见的可能性。半边天在细微点裡、在大社区中，引导着人类集体地进步，激起了与所属区域国家以外人们的交流，世界合而为一。打开门窗，经过缓和外交，这将是进化所有问题重要的第一步。在执行这个计划按时，我们一直坚守着这宗旨。

当两个国家的女性艺术家并列展示着她们的作品，这个艺术桉才在真正地成为社会实践艺术。这是一个合作、交流、对话、表现、工作团体、社区建设和社会问题之总集。其中涵括美国代表的艺术家/作家们巡迴作品至中国沈阳的鲁迅美术学院。美国代表与中国艺术家互动提供参与创造机会去打破文化和语言的藩篱。中国艺术家和鲁迅美术学院的教授、学生们将在此展现她们的艺术与技巧。这是一个五花八门的艺术总集 - 从旧至新 - 这沟通与表达了内在与外在独特的想法。

展览包含来自世界各地的女性们 - 全美国、中国、韩国、伊朗、台湾...。作品由各种不同方式产生：合作、集体创作、独自创作、非营利运动团体...。其中包含装置、社会运动艺术家档桉、视频，摄影，绘画，素描，表演艺术和凋塑。作品内容包含：故事陈述、性别暴力、环境关怀、科学、安全、流浪汉问题、自我认知、和平，和社区建设。

藉由这个艺术桉，我们在建立起文档。保留自我识别的女艺术家遗产是全美女性艺术家团体的主要关注。有一些问题仍旧需要女性集合努力，需要他人了解我们的媒体、美术馆实在缺乏足够女性主义相关内容以启发更多的女性主义运动，这些努力及这些文档的保存对未来实为重要。

我的工作主要是关注建立社会与政治之间的关係和产生交会使观众们去想、去问、去行动；提供沟通的机会并建造联系。在我的经验裡，来到这个交会点的每一个人都被过往的历史染色想法。在给予鼓励和辅助后，我们了解到自己的言语、判断、还有行为都多少影响了整个社会。我们找寻方法并看见事情的背后人们希望沟通的慾望，并提供空间去让彼此认知与了解。一个参与者与我分享这句话：“这是一群平凡的女人们分享她们过人的智慧，这使我们更加地强壮。”我们就是这样子去扶持着半边的天空。

全美女性艺术家团体(WCA)是联合国的非政府组织，最近出版的文章裡形容着艺术有助于协商并建立一个更大的社区让不同于所有不同人种、不同文化、不同区域的人都能参与。联合国秘书潘基文还有联合国妇女署前负责人米歇尔·巴切莱特表示，我们无法成功地提升全球公民的利益除非我们提升女性的智慧及扩展她们的经验，也囊括她们一起解决问题。我们需要提升女性权力，并让她们的智慧去影响她们所属的文化。联合国认为艺术是必要的工具。这个艺术桉是全美女性艺术家团体对联合国这项声明的实体呈现。