

Sheri Klein and Jennifer Motter, Co-president

WC Mission: *The NAEA Women's Caucus exists to eradicate gender discrimination in all areas of art education, to support women art educators in their professional endeavors and to educate the general public about the contributions of women in the arts.*

In a recent (July 30, 2014) article in *The Guardian* by Jessica Valenti titled "Feminism Makes Us Victims" she reports on the burgeoning online anti-feminist movement, particularly *Women Against Feminism* and anti-feminist blogs. Young millennial women between the ages of 18 and 29 are posting selfies with statements as to why they believe feminism is not important and relevant. (see <http://womenagainstfeminism.tumblr.com>).

Some of these statements include: "Life is about balance not equity," "I'm not weak," "I can form my opinions without influence of other women and liberal college professors," and "Women get away with more than men." These statements offer an opportunity to address *the relevancy of feminism and the misconceptions about feminism within art education/teacher education programs*. The fact remains that gender discrimination and inequities still exist and women artists are still underrepresented in exhibitions and in art history texts (see <http://www.guerrillagirls.com/posters/venicewallf.shtml>)

The fusion of social media and feminism has also resulted in numerous blogs, websites, videos, and petitions in a youth-led movement that is known as *online feminism* where feminists, primarily women ages 18-29, are using social media to promote *positive associations* with feminism and to globally educate, organize, and raise social awareness. Social media enables more women around the world to function as change agents with the potential to reach and impact a vast audience by creating and contributing to online discourse, forming online communities, and engaging in collective efforts (see <http://www.valentimartin.com/the-future-of-online-feminism-infographic/>).

Online feminists are bloggers, activists, thought leaders, fund raisers, and change agents using social media platforms to advocate for equity and social change. For example, 14-year old Julia Bluhm and other SPARK Movement members involved in an intergenerational movement of girls dedicated to unveiling and challenging sexualization of girls in the media utilized a Change.org petition and a video documentary to globally reveal and protest *Seventeen* magazine's use of photo manipulation of images of women and girls. Another example is a blog created by Professor Seidman's students at Duke University (see whoneedsfeminism.com) to address misconceptions about feminism.

The Internet allows for instantaneous connections, coalition building, strategizing and co-participation with global users in what would be otherwise localized and isolated efforts and initiatives. Some of the most powerful ways to get your message across on your blog or website is through *infographics*.

Infographics as “graphic visual representations of information, data, or knowledge, present complex information quickly and clearly” and are clearly one of the most powerful ways to visualize data. If you *Google* ‘feminist infographics’ you can find hundreds of examples. *BuzzFeed* Community posted twelve infographics that visualize why we still need feminism (see <http://www.buzzfeed.com/floperry/12-infographics-that-will-convince-you-we-still-ne-ic9t>). There are many free and open source platforms to create your own infographics about feminism and feminist issues.

Here are just a few:

- Infogram <http://infogr.am/>
- Visually <http://visual.ly/>
- Piktochart <http://piktochart.com/>

Join the online movement with your students to create and share infographics about why feminism is relevant. The WC blog and website are some of the forums WC members may use to share their collective voice in this movement.

2015 Award Nominations

The Women's Caucus seeks nominations for outstanding individuals for the 2015 Women's Caucus annual *Kathy Connors, Carrie Nordlund, Mary Rouse, June King McFee, and Maryl Fletcher de Jong Awards*. Any NAEA member whose work meets the award criteria is eligible for these awards. ***Nominations are due to the chairs of our respective award committees by November 15, 2014.***

Award criteria along with award chairs names and email addresses are available on the WC awards webpage at <http://naeawc.net/awards.html>.

To nominate an individual for a WC award to be given at the next NAEA Annual Convention visit the following link for award descriptions and award chair contact information. (See <http://naeawc.net/awards.html>)

2015 WC Exhibit

Submit up to three artworks for the 2015 Women's Caucus juried exhibition, *Form, Function, Future*. The deadline for submissions is November 1, 2014. Submission is free for Women's Caucus members, \$10 for non-members (or join the Women's Caucus for the same price). For more information, please visit naeawc.net.

Join or Renew Membership

New members and current members can now join and renew online by logging in with your NAEA login/password. Instructions for an online process, to use at the same time that you renew your NAEA membership, is described at <http://naeawc.net/membership.html>. Or, call NAEA toll-free at 800-299-8321 to pay WC annual membership dues via credit card at the same time as renewing your NAEA membership.

Online Presence

WC Blog: <http://naeawcvoices.wordpress.com/>

WC Website: <http://naeawc.net/index.html>

WC Facebook: Please join us to post announcements and share ideas and resources.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/177480239379/>