

# PRESS RELEASE:

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## EXPLODING THE LIMITS OF MASCULINITY AND FEMININITY!

### *The Fluidity of Gender: Sculpture by Linda Stein* A traveling solo multi-media exhibition/performance/event series At **Flomenhaft Gallery**, Chelsea, Manhattan

**Exhibition Dates:** May 17 through June 23, 2012

**Event Series:** See listing below

**Reception:** Thursday, May 17, 6-8pm  
with **Dance and Conversation** at 6:45 pm

**Linda Stein's art and activism** have been passionately and vigorously engaged toward tearing down all forms of gender stereotypes and prejudices, as she increasingly focuses on celebrating the fluidity of gender. Art historians Christina M. Penn-Goetsch, Margo Hobbs Thompson, Ann Vollman Bible and others have written extensively about how Stein continues to "break down boundaries between female, male, feminine and masculine" doing so "with the clear intent of dismantling a hegemony that limits individuals and values one gender over another."

**A Keynote speaker and lecturer** for peace and equality, Stein takes a no-holds-barred approach toward critiquing and denouncing egregious patterns of injustice and gender-based violence in our culture, invoking a more egalitarian, enlightened experience of gender identity. "My goal," Stein says, "is to use my art to transform social consciousness and promote activism for gender justice. With my androgynous forms I invite the viewer to seek out diversity in unpredictable ways, to 'try on' new personal avatars and self-definitions, realizing that every new experience changes the brain's structure and inspires each of us toward a more authentic self."

**Have you ever wondered** what feeling more masculine or feminine would actually be like? Or what it would feel like to try on a more masculine or more feminine avatar on your physical body? Linda Stein will help you experience that, and more, through her unique gender-empowering **wearable** sculptures.

**From May 17 through June 23, 2012**, Linda Stein's gender-empowering sculptures and gender improvisational gathering (**SteinGIG**) can be experienced at the Flomenhaft Gallery in Chelsea Manhattan. A Gallery Reception with the artist will be held on Thursday, May 17, 6-8pm, and will feature an Interpretive Dance Performance and Conversation at 6:45pm.

**Linda Stein's non-stop media interviews**, including those in 2006 when she was duped into being in the Borat movie, demonstrate that this artist is no dupe. She was told that they needed to interview her as a noted "sculptor on Masculinity/Femininity" for a movie to help third-world women, and that it would not be shown in America. When she became aware of the journalistic hoax, Stein wasted no time in throwing the phony journalist out of her studio and subsequently decrying the sexism, racism and homophobia ostensibly addressed in this movie.

**Stein has been featured** on more than 150 television, radio, magazine and online formats discussing the expanding definition of Gender (no longer just Male and Female) and describing how her art informs this changing view.

**Through 2015**, Stein's sculptures will travel to more than 20 museums and universities around the country.

**If you're looking** for an attention-grabbing story or interview, then you will not want to miss this traveling solo multi-media exhibition/performance/lecture entitled, *The Fluidity of Gender: Sculpture by Linda Stein*. After Flomenhaft Gallery, this exhibition will travel to the George A. Spiva Center for the Arts in Joplin, Missouri and [many other venues](#).

**If you would like** to learn more about Linda Stein's gender empowering art work and social activism, or would be interested in arranging an interview with her or hosting an exhibition or lecture, please contact Gallery Director Courtney Cook at [Courtney@FlomenhaftGallery.com](mailto:Courtney@FlomenhaftGallery.com) or phone Courtney at 212-268-4952.

**Please click** on the home page link at <http://haveartwilltravel.org/> for more information.

## **EVENTS LISTING**

**Have Art: Will Travel (HAWT) and Flomenhaft Gallery** present *The Fluidity of Gender: Sculpture by Linda Stein, May 17-June 23*, Flomenhaft Gallery, 547 West 27th Street (bet 10th & 11th Aves), Suite 200, Chelsea, Manhattan. Hours: Tues-Sat 10am to 5pm.

**HAWT Calendar of Free Gender Justice Events at Flomenhaft Gallery** (Please [RSVP to HAWT@HaveArtWillTravel.org](#) or call 212. 964. 6007)

### **1. Thurs, May 17: 6-8pm: Gallery Opening Reception**

**Josie M. Coyoc**, Pilobolus dancer, previously with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company, will give ten-minute performance at 6:45pm while wearing one of Stein's sculptures, accompanied by **Lindsay Harwell**, a third year student at The Juilliard School. Following this, Lindsay will have a candid conversation about the fluidity of gender with his mother, **Lauren Embrey**, a philanthropist/activist/writer/actor/dancer involved in human rights work intersecting with the performing arts.

### **2. Wed, May 23, 6-8 pm: How Philanthropy Promotes Gender Justice**

**Carol Jenkins**—**Moderator**, A writer and producer, Jenkins is an Emmy award winning former television anchor and correspondent, well known for her tenure with WNBC-TV in New York. Jenkins now serves as

president of the Women's Media Center, a nonprofit advocacy organizations founded in 2004 to make women visible and powerful in the media.

**J. Bob Alotta**, Exec Dir, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

**Alison Bernstein**, Director, Institute for Women's Leadership, Rutgers University. Former Vice President for the Knowledge, Creativity and Freedom Program at the Ford Foundation; and former Camille and William Cosby Visiting Professor at Spelman College.

**Rashid Shabazz**, Program Officer, Soros Foundations

**Jessica Stern**, Director of Programs, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission

### 3. Wed, [May 30th](#), 6-8 pm: **Major Activists for Gender Justice**

A tour-de-force with high-profile activists who will reveal their modus operandi for changing the world. They each have a different take on how to shout, move, push the world toward gender equity.

**Moderator**—Special Guest

**Charlotte Bunch**, Founding Director and Senior Scholar, Center for Global Leadership, Douglass College, Rutgers University

**Blanche Wiesen Cook**, Distinguished Professor of History, John Jay College, CUNY and Author, Eleanor Roosevelt, Vols I and II

**Dorothy Sander**, Board Co-Chair, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission

### 4. Wed, [June 13th](#), 6-8pm: **Dolling Up!**

**Emcee**—Special Guest

**Michael Sackler-Berner**, Singer/Guitarist who appears at Joe's Pub, Mercury Lounge, Living Room, Rockwood, Bitter End, Stephen Talkhouse, performs the song he wrote for his girlfriend, now wife, called *Don't Let Yourself Go*. In this song, Michael asks that she continue to dress up and make up, as she did when they first met.

**Betty**, activist entertainers, well-known for their performances at rallies for feminist causes and for their seven TV theme songs, film appearances and commercial jingles, will provide another view with their song, the *IT Girl*.

This will be a *hoot* of an evening as the songs sung by Michael and Betty have loads of feminist ramifications. A discussion follows the singing.

### 5. Sat, [June 16th](#), 1:30-3:30pm: **Growing up Female in the 1930s, 50s, 80s and 2012**

**Lori Sokol**—**Moderator**, Lori Sokol, Ph.D. is an Educational Psychologist who writes and speaks about women's empowerment as a book author, blogger, radio show host and international public speaker. She is also the Founder/Publisher of Work Life Matters magazine, a national publication which advocates for the provision of work/life resources and services to our nation's workforce.

1930s: **Claire Reed**—Activist who worked with Bella Abzug, Women Strike for Peace, SNCC.

1950s: **Clare Coss**—Playwright, psychotherapist, and activist. Author of plays on Emmett Till, Lillian Wald, and Mary White Ovington.

1970s or 80s: **Panelist**—to be announced

2012: **Stephanie Coontz**—Director of Research and Public Education at the Council on Contemporary Families and teaches history and family studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. Her books include *The Way We Never Were*; *Marriage, a History: How Love Conquered Marriage*; and *A Strange Stirring: The Feminine Mystique and American Women at the Dawn of the 1960s*.

**THE FOLLOWING 2 EVENTS ARE BY INVITATION ONLY FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:**

6. Tues, [May 22](#), 10:30am-12Noon: **Hip Hop, Gender-Justiced Masculinity and Art**

**Facilitators**—**Elena Mancini** and **Federica Franze**

Event in collaboration with **Jimmie Briggs**, Director of the *Man-Up Campaign to Stop Violence Against Women*, with high school students from Manhattan schools. Students will do advance preparation with music and art.

7. Wed, [May 30th](#), 4pm–5:30pm: **A Body-Swapping Fashion Show**

**Facilitators**—**Elena Mancini** and **Federica Franze**

Event in collaboration with **Jesse Ehrensaft- Hawley**, Program Coordinator, Arts & Culture, **Hetrick-Martin Institute**. Students will prepare for event by creating masks and headgear they will wear while donning Stein's gallery sculpture.