

## ***Joan Arbeiter***

**Noyes Galleries at Kramer Hall**

### **Artist Biography:**

Joan Arbeiter is a feminist artist and educator that has works of art exhibited throughout the United States of America and Germany, including the [Ceres Gallery](#) in New York City, the [Alexander Library](#) at Rutgers University, and the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) at Washington D.C.. Arbeiter has multiple works in the Noyes Museum's Permanent Collection.



Photograph of artist Joan Arbeiter

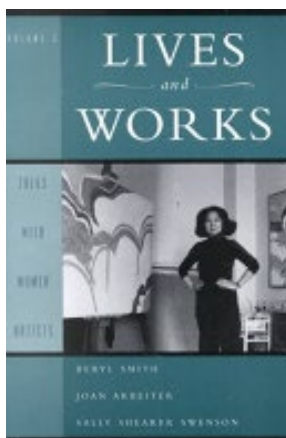
Arbeiter earned her Master of Fine Arts degree at [Pratt Institute](#) in Brooklyn, NY in 1981. At the time, Arbeiter was an intern at the [New York Feminist Art Institute](#), where she was involved in the expansion of the database to include more women artists specifically from New Jersey. Her political consciousness and stance on gender roles shape her art exhibitions which serves humility to the audience.

### **About the collection *Lives and Works: Talks with Women Artists:***

The collection is comprised of twelve portraits of female artists. Arbeiter gave faces to each of the twelve artists: Jackie Winsor, Kay WalkingStick, Joan Snyder, Mimi Smith, Miriam Schapiro, Ce Roser, Charlotte Robinson, Patricia Lay, Agnes Denes, Cathey Billian, Nancy Azara, and Dotty Attie.

Each mixed media piece is made with watercolor and overlaid with dry media (i.e., oil pastel, marker, colored pencil) on textured clayboard. Her use of fabric, glitter, unique patterns and backgrounds for each portrait reflects the feminist art of her time. For example, Miriam Schapiro's portrait contains fabric that was found in Schapiro's collection of materials used in her own "femmagés," or feminist collages.

Arbeiter's use of watercolors and customized framing convey the personality each woman encompasses. In addition, every artist added to the portrait with a personal message onto the canvas. By allowing each woman to do so makes each portrait unique and characteristic of its subject.



*Lives and Works: Talks with Women Artists*  
(Scarecrow Press, 1999) Book Cover

Joan Arbeiter co-wrote the book [\*Lives and Works: Talks with Women Artists\*](#) (1999), which accompanies the collection of paintings, consisting of interviews with the twelve artists. Arbeiter brought the little black-and-white portraits in the book to life in her *Lives and Works* Exhibition at the [Ceres Gallery](#) in 2000. Her book has been quoted and promoted by [Manhattan Arts International](#), [Woman's Art Journal](#), and [Rutgers University](#). While her pre-feminist works were ahead of her time, Joan Arbeiter's legacy as a radical, feminist artist persists as her pieces are still relevant to today's society.

### Artist Statement:

"Women's history is fragile. It needs to be preserved and published. That is why I was happy to conduct and edit the interviews, 1988-1993. But I am first and foremost a painter, and writing for me is not a substitute for painting. I wanted to add another dimension to the documentation and therefore, invited each artist to sit for her portrait" (From duCret School of Art Press Release, Oct. 2006)

Artist Facebook: [Joan Arbeiter](#)

Artist Instagram: [#JoanArbeiter](#)

**Thank you to Joan Arbeiter and her family for donating a selection of Joan's works to establish the "Joan Arbeiter Feminist Collection" in effort to provide educational opportunities to learn about Joan's work and gain a deeper understanding of the Feminist art movement!**

The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University · <http://www.noyesmuseum.org> · (609) 626-3420

The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University · [www.artsgarageac.com](http://www.artsgarageac.com) · (609) 626-3805

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