

THE WOMEN OF PARIS PHOTO 2018

By Alisa Carroll - November 12, 2018



“We are calling on the cultural establishment...at this decisive moment...let us all dare,” declared Agnes Saal of France’s Ministry of Culture on the first day of Paris Photo 2018, setting out the female-forward focus for the fair. And the event is in some ways seizing the moment, putting women artists square in the spotlight with Elles x Paris Photo—a fair-wide itinerary of works by female photographers ranging from the historic avant-garde to contemporary artists—and Women, The Exception, a day of critical and cultural talks. The official fair image is by Mickalene Thomas.

As the press release for Paris Photo notes, however, the breakdown of the 887 artists presented by the exhibitors is 79% men (697) to 21% women (190). “Women with their cameras go beyond traditions and place themselves on an equal level with men in a new art that they now practice with such passion. Our greatest painters have been men, do we not have the right to wait for our most famous photographers to be women?” asked photographer Margaret Bisland. That was in 1890.

Generations of women have, of course, stood behind the lens, from Claude Cahun to Diane Arbus, Cindy Sherman to Francesca Woodman. By showcasing the work of Wiame Haddad, Lisa Sartorio, Shadi Ghadirian and many others, this year’s fair strives to promote women with a vast diversity of backgrounds and with a plurality of perspectives and practices. All of whom are daring.

STEVEN
KASHER
GALLERY

Joan Lyons @ Steven Kasher Gallery

Steven Kasher gallery presents the work of American photographer Joan Lyons, a pioneering feminist artist whose work spans the 1950s through the present. Lyons' practice encompasses a range of processes, from pinhole photography, offset lithography and Xerography to screen-printing and photo-quilt making. Her work often features her own image; her extraordinary large-scale silkscreen on fabric, *Bedsread* (1969), is a stunning panel of her nude figure that evokes the iconography of saints. An exhibition of her work opens at Steven Kasher Gallery in New York next Thursday, November 15.