Editorial: Dropping Lots of Names

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Editorial

Dropping Lots of Names

In a recent project, I surveyed 50 friends and colleagues knowledgeable about contemporary art and its criticism, asking them in an open-ended questionnaire to list 10-20 contemporary artists who should be included in a book about the criticism of contemporary art (Barrett, 1994). I requested "broad and fair representation" and suggestions of women, artists of color, and outsiders, as well as mainstream artists. A criterion was that artists who would be included in the book would have to have been written about by critics, even though this created a bind considering outsiders. I also asked which critics should be included. The 30 respondents including males and females of color are artists, curators, critics, aestheticians, arts educators, arts administrators, an architect, and an arts editor. Following paragraphs contain the artists and critics they recommended. When more than one respondent named someone, the number of respondents is in parentheses.

I don't claim scientific validity for these lists, but they proved very helpful to me, offering several people of whom I was (and still am) unaware, but whom others find important. I offer the lists to you with hope that they might be a useful as well as a motivational resource for more teaching and learning about contemporary art, its criticism, and multicultural concerns. Published information on many of the artists is scarce, but these authors and editors offer good samplings (Robert Atkins, 1990; Douglas Crimp, 1990; Robert Bersson, 1991; Doug Blandy & Kristin Congdon, 1991; Patricia Drahe & John Pierce, 1991; Lucy Lippard, 1991; Howard Smagula, 1991; Philip Yenawine, 1991; the Wexner Center, 1991; Arthur Danto, 1992; Steven Dubin, 1992; Craig Owens, 1992; Donald Kuspit, 1993; and Giancarlo Politi Editore, 1993). If the lists are unwieldy for you in size, some fun can be had by reducing the number of names, prioritizing them, and making new lists of your own.

Artists. Magdalena Abakanowicz (2), Vito Acconci (3), Dennis Adams (2),

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2The responses were returned in different formats, and most were hand-written. I have tried to verify spellings, but cannot guarantee accuracy.
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(2), Martha Rosler (2), Charles Ross, Dieter Rot, Richard Roth (2), Susan Rothenberg (6), Ed Ruscha (2), Mahler Ryder, Alison Saar (5), Betye Saar (5), David Salle (2), Cheri Samb, Juan Sanchez, Peter Saul, Raymond Saunders, Miriam Schapiro (2), Julian Schnabel (4), Carolee Schneeman (2), Sean Scully, James Seawright, George Segal, Allan Sekula, Richard Serra, Andres Serrano, Cindy Sherman (2), Lorna Simpson (3), Sandy Skoglund, Barbara Smith, June Quick-to-see Smith, Kiki Smith, Robert Smithson, Kenneth Snelson, Keith Sonnier, Nancy Spero (2), The Starn Twins (2), Haim Steinbach (2), Pat Steir, Frank Stella, Michelle Stuart, Jame Surls, Survival Research Laboratories (2), Antion Tapies, Tony Tasset, TODT, Francesc Torres (2), Joan Truckenbrod, Anne Truitt, William Tucker, Emiko Tukushige, James Turell (5), Cy Twombly, Alan Uglow, Vincent VanGogh, Bill Viola (2), Andy Warhol (2), Megan Webster, Carrie Mae Weems (2), William Wegman (2), Pheoris West (2), Pat Ward Williams, Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, Fred Wilson (3), Robert Wilson, David Wojnarowicz (3).


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References