

MEDIA ALERT

Weinberg/Newton Gallery

EXHIBITION

Your body is a battleground

EXHIBITION DATES

April 15–June 9, 2016

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, April 15, 2016, 5–8 PM

LOCATION

Weinberg/Newton Gallery
300 W Superior Street, Suite 203
Chicago, IL 60654

HOURS

Mon – Sat 10 AM – 5 PM

VISIT US ONLINE

weinbergnewtongallery.com

ALL MEDIA REQUESTS

Please contact Orly Telisman
Public Relations: 312 375 1230
or orly@orlypr.com

High-resolution images of
artwork are available upon
request.

OVERVIEW

Focusing on the many ways art and artists have moved the pro-choice and feminist movements forward, *Your body is a battleground* is an exhibition featuring sculpture, photography, painting, drawing, and mixed media works. Exhibition artworks are available for bidding throughout the run of the show. Online auction house Paddle8 is handling all bids before the benefit auction event on June 9th. This exhibition and auction support Personal PAC (see below).

ARTISTS

Marzena Abrahamik, Claire Arctander, Lise Haller Baggesen, Iris Bernblum, Phyllis Bramson, Rashayla Marie Brown, Jon Cates & Ei Jane Lin, Lauren Edwards, Alexandria Eregbu, Hope Esser, Dianna Frid, Beate Geissler & Oliver Sann, Amber Ginsburg, Lyra Hill, Kelly Kaczynski, Julia Klein, Natalie Krick, Kelly Lloyd, Aleksandra Mir, Noël Morical, Jessie Mott, Paula Pinho Martins Nacif, Betsy Odom, Dan Paz, Claire Pentecost, Julie Potratz, Michele Pred, Macon Reed, Jennifer Reeder, and Carrie Schneider.

NON-PROFIT PARTNER

Your body is a battleground is curated in partnership with Personal PAC, www.personalpac.org. Personal PAC is a nonpartisan political action committee dedicated to protecting and advancing reproductive rights for all women by recruiting, electing, and holding accountable pro-choice candidates to state and local office in Illinois.

ABOUT WEINBERG/NEWTON GALLERY

Weinberg/Newton Gallery (formerly David Weinberg Photography) is an exhibition space with a mission to educate and inform the public on social justice issues. Through artwork and programming, the gallery provides an engaging environment for discourse on critical contemporary issues facing our communities. Connecting artists with social justice organizations, the gallery works to drive change and cultivate a culture of consciousness.

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Opening April 15, Weinberg/Newton Gallery (formerly David Weinberg Photography) presents *Your body is a battleground*. The exhibition focuses on the many ways art and artists have moved the pro-choice and feminist movements forward. Featuring a wide range of artistic disciplines, all artworks in the exhibition are available for bidding through the online auction house Paddle8 during the run of the show.

This exhibition and auction support Personal PAC, a non-partisan political action committee dedicated to protecting and advancing reproductive rights for all women. Visit paddle8.com/auction/personalpac to place your bid before June 9. A closing reception will feature a live auction of three exclusive works by artist and pro-choice activist Michele Pred. (Please see *The Art and Politics of Choice* page in this press kit for further details.)

Representing a full spectrum of artistic disciplines and connections to feminist ideologies, *Your body is a battleground* highlights 32 artists who boldly confront reproductive rights issues. The works presented explore a myriad of references to the body and its politics, issues surrounding feminine and queer aesthetics, the relationship between motherhood and choice, sexual freedom, and political/intellectual representations of women. The breadth of material ranges from delicate mark-making works on paper to photographic images depicting fictional and factual worlds. Soft sculpture and heavy objects materialize personal experience, while the explorations of new media artists explode traditional modes of representing the self. Textiles weave the personal with the political. Because women's issues cannot be separated from race and class, each work's perspective is unique to the experience of its maker.

The exhibition's title, *Your body is a battleground*, is appropriated from the ad-inspired image and text of renowned artist Barbara Kruger. Her piece was originally designed in 1989 for the Women's March on Washington, in support of reproductive freedom. That year was marked by numerous demonstrations protesting a new wave of anti-abortion laws chipping away at the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. Since 2013, over 1,500 anti-abortion laws have been proposed. This is more than the previous 39 years combined since *Roe v. Wade* passed. Women's bodies are battlegrounds that society continues to fight and protect. Through this collaborative exhibition, Weinberg/Newton Gallery and Personal PAC use art to convey a message of support for reproductive rights.

Our partner organization Personal PAC recruits, elects, and holds accountable pro-choice candidates in state and local offices in Illinois. For over 25 years, Personal PAC has defeated anti-choice extremists where it matters most—at the ballot box. Working to ensure the voice of choice is heard loud and clear, this collaborative exhibition is a work of protest to keep abortion safe and legal in Illinois.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Personal PAC is pleased to recognize contributing artist Michele Pred with the Pro-Choice Leadership Award for her advocacy and dedication to this cause. Pred began making artworks addressing reproductive rights issues in 1989 and although over 25 years have passed, defending choice and health access for women is as urgent as ever. Through a series of limited-edition, repurposed purses, or “Pred-à-Porters”, Pred turns an iconic symbol of female economic power and freedom into portable political billboards. Each purse is emblazoned with phrases from the movement declaring “My Body, My Business,” “#ACCESS,” “FEMINIST,” and “PRO-CHOICE.” And though she fights a seemingly uphill battle, Pred persists with her message of access and choice for women. This year, Pred launched *Roe v. Wade 43rd Anniversary Art Action in Oakland*. Pred and fellow citizens walked ceremoniously to the post office, where she mailed t-shirts emblazoned with “Her Body, Her Business” to all of the presidential candidates.

Your body is a battleground features and honors the work of Marzena Abrahamik, Claire Arctander, Lise Haller Baggesen, Iris Bernblum, Phyllis Bramson, Rashayla Marie Brown, Jon Cates & Ei Jane Lin, Lauren Edwards, Alexandria Eregbu, Hope Esser, Dianna Frid, Beate Geissler & Oliver Sann, Amber Ginsburg, Lyra Hill, Kelly Kaczynski, Julia Klein, Natalie Krick, Kelly Lloyd, Aleksandra Mir, Noël Morical, Jessie Mott, Paula Pinho Martins Nacif, Betsy Odom, Dan Paz, Claire Pentecost, Julie Potratz, Michele Pred, Macon Reed, Jennifer Reeder, and Carrie Schneider.

LOCATION

Events take place at
Weinberg/Newton Gallery
300 W Superior Street, Suite 203
Chicago, IL 60654

Unless noted, all events are
free and open to the public.

Email info@d-weinberg.com
for more information.

*Your body is a battleground***Opening Reception**

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 5–8 PM

Reproductive Rights:**The Politics of Race, Class, and Gender**

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 5:30–7 PM

A panel featuring Camilla Taylor, counsel and national marriage project director for Lambda Legal; Illinois State Senator Toi Hutchinson; and Ramon Gardenhire, Vice President of Policy & Advocacy for AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Discussing the intersections of race, class, and gender in the fight for reproductive rights and how the right-wing is using religion to discriminate widely against women and LGBTQ people. Moderated by Terry Cosgrove, President & CEO of Personal PAC.

*Future Voices Council Speak Up & Speak Out***Opening Reception**

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 5:30–8 PM

Mingle and network with members of the Future Voices Council and learn how you can get involved in the fight for reproductive rights in Illinois. Enjoy *Your body is a battleground*, a collaborative art exhibition at Weinberg/Newton Gallery while sipping drinks and watching artist Lindsay Budzynski create a piece of art for raffle at the end of the evening. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 students)

*The Art and Politics of Choice***Final Night and Auction**

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 5:30–8 PM

Closing reception and auction. A last opportunity to view *Your body is a battleground* and place bids on featured artwork.

Bids will be taken throughout the run of the exhibition at <http://paddle8.com/auction/personalpac>. Online auction closes at 9pm.

Tickets start at \$100. Purchase tickets here:
<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/battleground>

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Your body is a battleground.

Your body is personal and what is personal is political. An ever-evolving revolution, feminism as a social movement is hinged upon these realities. Feminist art of the 1960s and 70s originated from a desire to change the world through the message of artworks. Mobilized with the momentum of civil rights activism and anti-war protests, the second wave feminist movement responded to the turbulent politics of the time. The absence of women in recorded histories, inequality in the workplace, the lack of representation of women artists in exhibiting institutions, and expected gender roles were key issues feminist artists and activists tackled. Women and men organized to address sexism as a human rights violation and to reclaim female agency. Together, they created alternatives and challenged normative values. The crux of our current state of political and social unrest depends upon this same spirit of solidarity and resistance against our oppressors.

As the movement grew, feminism shaped our social landscape, creating more opportunities for women and expanding into an intersectional dialogue. In line with social discourse, feminist art became global in reach, including every discipline, genre, and theme. Of its many subjects, body politics, or the practices and policies through which society regulates human bodies, is just one piece of feminist art's greater narrative. It is, however, the central focus of *Your body is a battleground* in partnership with Personal PAC to reflect upon the intersection of reproductive rights and the power of art to change society.

The right to an abortion in the US continues to be challenged state-by-state. Illinois is one of eight states with laws that express intent to restrict, to the maximum extent, the right to legal abortion permitted by the U.S. Supreme Court in the absence of Roe. Across the nation, a spectrum of laws and regulations obstructs a woman's right to make choices regarding her reproductive health. From limitations on family planning services, exemptions for religious refusal, enforced waiting periods, public funding challenges for low income families, and restrictions from private insurance companies, the trenches are wide and deep. Despite claims that a need for feminism has past, a great disparity still separates the privileges granted to men and women.

MEG NOE

Exhibitions and Programming Director

AUCTION

The Art and Politics of Choice

ONLINE AUCTION DATES

April 15–June 9, 2016

BIDDING

Place your bids here:

www.paddle8.com/auction/personalpac

CLOSING RECEPTION

Thursday, June 9, 2016,
5:30–8 PM

TICKETS

Buy your tickets to the event here: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/battleground>

LOCATION

Weinberg/Newton Gallery
300 W Superior Street, Suite 203
Chicago, IL 60654

Weinberg/Newton Gallery is pleased to present *The Art and Politics of Choice*, an auction supporting Personal PAC, featuring artworks by feminist identifying artists. All artworks in the auction are part of the exhibition *Your body is a battleground* at Weinberg/Newton Gallery. All pieces are open for bid throughout the duration of the show through the online auction house Paddle8. The auction event is hosted by Event Chairs Cari Sacks and Amy Bluhm.

Personal PAC is honored to present Michele Pred with the Pro-Choice Leadership Award on June 9th at the closing reception for *Your body is a battleground*. The evening will also feature a live auction of three additional works of Michele's exclusively presented the night of the auction.

Michele Pred believes that recent violence aimed at women's health care providers and actions by politicians leave no doubt that a woman's right to choose is still under assault and that negative attitudes toward basic health care, like birth control, stubbornly persist. She feels a renewed urgency to defend pro-choice and access to women's services. She made her first art piece about reproductive rights in 1989, never believing that 25 years later women would have less access to abortion and other critical health services.

Pred has created several limited editions of Pred-à-Porter purses. Each unique piece is made using a vintage handbag from the 1950s and 60s. The text on each purse is created using neon, birth control pills or Electroluminescent wire that is lit up using batteries and a small electronic driver that can be set to constant or flash mode. For her, the use of purses from the mid-20th century also calls back to how much has changed and, more importantly, how much has not. The purses are meant to be carried and serve as small-scale political billboards.

Pred is a Swedish-American conceptual artist. She works with found and confiscated objects and technology imbued with cultural and political meaning. Her artwork has been exhibited in galleries, art fairs and museums in London, Stockholm, Sydney, New York, Bologna, Miami, Los Angeles, Chicago and San Francisco. Her work is part of the permanent collection at the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York, the 21st Century Museum, The Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) New York, The Contemporary Museum in Honolulu, the Di Rosa Collection in Napa, CA, and is held in numerous corporate and private collections. Pred received her BFA from California College of the Arts, Oakland, CA where she is an adjunct Professor.

LEADERS OF THE PAC

This special selection of works donated to the auction from friends of the Personal PAC network includes works by Patti Bartlestein, Bette Cerf Hill, Susan Messer McBride, Allison Svoboda, and two artworks from the private collection of Personal PAC donors Barbara Bluhm and Don Kaul. These contributors' strong commitment to the cause and longtime relationship with Personal PAC is donating 100% of sale proceeds to Personal PAC.

EVENT CHAIRS

Cari Sacks and Amy Bluhm

HOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jodi Block Malkin
 Barbara Bluhm-Kaul
 Virginia Bobins
 Dedrea Gray
 Sondra Karman
 Dolores Kohl
 Sylvia Neil
 Yumi Ross
 Esther Saks
 Karyn Silverstein
 Franny Zucker

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EVENT CHAIRS

To be an artist in America has always been a unique and special privilege. In many ways, an artist's role in society is to serve as a touchstone for basic human truths. The artist is a champion of individual sensibility, often going against the intrusiveness of society and the currents of her time. Art is the nourishment that allows our culture to exist. Therefore the expressive forms that the artist takes must always be protected and given complete freedom. This is the basis of a democratic society.

The artists represented in *Your Body is a Battleground* are a prime example of what it means to be an artist in America today. Their concern for individual freedom extends from their canvases to the critical issue of reproductive freedom. The ongoing battle against granting women complete jurisdiction over their own bodies is an absurd one. Perhaps artist participation in the conversation will continually remind society we are not there yet and we will never stop until justice is served.

“If sometimes our great artists have been the most critical of our society, it is because their sensitivity and their concern for justice, which must motivate any true artist, makes him aware that our Nation falls short of its highest potential. I see little of more importance to the future of our country and our civilization than full recognition of the place of the artist.”—John F. Kennedy

Cari Sacks, Event Chair

ABOUT PADDLE8

Paddle8 is the leading secondary marketplace for art and luxury collectibles worldwide. Breaking down many of the traditional barriers to art dealing and collecting, the company offers both veteran and novice collectors a seamless online process to discover, sell and purchase works of art, furniture, jewelry and luxury collectibles through for-profit auctions, non-profit auctions and private sales. Servicing a community of more than 500,000 collectors worldwide, Paddle8 combines the taste and trust of a traditional auction house with the efficiency and global reach of the Internet to create a destination that makes it simple for collectors to buy and sell. Paddle8 is especially proud to partner with over 300 nonprofit organizations worldwide to present their benefit auctions to a global community of collectors, helping each organization expand its fundraising results. Led by co-founders Alexander Gilkes, Aditya Julka, and Osman Khan, Paddle8 was founded in 2011 and is headquartered in New York, with additional offices in Los Angeles and London. Paddle8 is funded by the investors behind Uber, Vimeo, BuzzFeed, Paperless Post, Warby Parker, and Bonobos, among others, as well as art-world insiders including Rolf Sachs, Stavros Niarchos, Damien Hirst, Jay Jopling and David Zwirner.

For more information, visit Paddle8.com.

ABOUT CURATE APP

CURATE was developed out of necessity by sisters Cari Sacks, MCA trustee and philanthropist and Patti Bartelstein, an artist and founder of THE PROJECT ROOM. Until now, the ability for art enthusiasts and collectors to preview pieces in their home had been constrained to actually having the piece of art brought into their homes. Using innovative technology, CURATE has developed an App that allows the art buyer to either scroll through the collections of member galleries, or take a photo of any prospective piece then quickly and accurately place it on a wall in their home with just a tap of the screen. This App eliminates one of the biggest impediments to purchasing art: answering the question, “How will it look on my wall?”

Weinberg/Newton Gallery is an exhibition space with a mission to educate and inform the public on social justice issues. Through artwork and programming the gallery provides an engaging environment for discourse on critical contemporary issues facing our communities. Connecting artists with social justice organizations, the gallery works to drive change and cultivate a culture of consciousness.

Our location is:

Weinberg/Newton Gallery
300 W Superior Street, Suite 203
Chicago, IL 60654

Our hours are:

Monday – Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM

For more information visit us online:
weinbergnewtongallery.com

HISTORY

Weinberg/Newton Gallery originally debuted in 2006 as David Weinberg Collection, a contemporary art gallery in Chicago's River North neighborhood.

In 2011, the space shifted to an artist-run studio featuring Weinberg's own photography work and changed its name to David Weinberg Photography.

In 2016, David Weinberg Photography became Weinberg/Newton Gallery. The change reflected and acknowledged the influence of attorney and philanthropist Jerry Newton on the gallery's work, particularly in building relationships with partner non-profit organizations. Newton actively has been involved with organizations including the ACLU of Illinois, Human Rights Watch, and Personal PAC for more than four decades. Together, David Weinberg and Jerry Newton have guided the Weinberg/Newton Family Foundation since 2009.

A SPACE FOR ARTISTS AND ISSUES

In addition to generating revenue for non-profit organization partners, Weinberg/Newton Gallery helps to further their causes by providing access to the space for outreach and education opportunities, as well as fundraising events.

Artists appreciate a space that embraces their commitment to social justice.

Weinberg/Newton Gallery is a place for engagement, building initiatives toward community and educational development through panel discussions, artist talks, educational events, and more.

Newton and Weinberg continue to maintain a steadfast commitment to social justice issues and the organizations that advocate on behalf of this work.

When Personal PAC was founded over 25 years ago, no one could imagine that in 2016 we would be arguing about access to birth control or worrying about turning back the clock on *Roe v. Wade*. As we brace ourselves to continue the fight for reproductive rights into the future, it's become more important than ever to engage the next generation of activists ready to carry this fight forward as long as is necessary.

Personal PAC is the only organization of its kind in the United States. Our mission is simple: we are a nonpartisan political action committee dedicated to protecting and advancing reproductive rights for all women by recruiting, electing, and holding accountable pro-choice candidates to state and local office in Illinois.

For over 25 years we have fought against the anti-choice extremists where it matters most—at the ballot box. Our strategy has proven extremely successful. Because of the work of Personal PAC, Illinois is the most choice-friendly state in the Midwest and is a destination for women in neighboring states who don't have access to a safe, legal, abortion. But it only takes one election for that to change. That's why we must continue to elect candidates that won't bow and scrape in deference to the insanity of the anti-choice agenda that seeks to rob women of their most fundamental human rights.

The stakes have never been higher for reproductive rights than they are right now. In just the first couple of weeks in 2016 there were 147 anti-choice bills introduced in state legislatures ... an average of 5 per day!

Personal PAC is excited to partner with the Weinberg/Newton Gallery to present *Your body is a battleground*, a collection of works focusing on the many ways art and artists have moved the pro-choice and feminist movements forward. Our exhibition's title, *Your body is a battleground*, is appropriated from an artwork by renowned artist Barbara Krüger. Her piece

was originally designed in 1989 for the Women's March on Washington in support of reproductive freedom. That year was marked by numerous demonstrations protesting a new wave of anti-abortion laws chipping away at the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. Women's bodies are battlegrounds that we must continue to fight to protect. We are looking to artists to help deliver a message to the public and keep abortion safe and legal in Illinois.

At the end of the exhibition, all the art will be auctioned off to benefit Personal PAC. I hope you will visit <http://paddle8.com/auction/personalpac> to place your bid today.

Always in Choice,

Terry Cosgrove
Personal PAC
President & CEO