

**FEMMES 'R' US  
FEMINISM IN POP MUSIC ART FILM TODAY  
BERLIN, 7 - 16 AUGUST 2008  
RADIALSYSTEM V**

## INFO

**Venue address:**

Radialsystem V  
Holzmarktstrasse 33, 10243 Berlin  
Subway/Train: Ostbahnhof

Opening hours exhibition:  
8-16 August 2008, daily from 2 pm - midnight

Opening:  
Thursday 7 August 2008 from 8 pm - midnight

**Entrance:**

Exhibition, screenings and discussions: free  
Party FEMMES 'R' US, 9 August 2008, 11 pm: 8 Euro  
Workshop Ableton live 7 Workshop, 11-12 August, 8 pm - midnight: 20 Euro  
Workshop Stefan Betke, 14 August, 8 pm - midnight: 40 Euro

**Full Program:**

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## FEMMES 'R' US

The project FEMMES 'R' US is dedicated to contemporary feminist positions in the arts. A ten days exhibition, accompanied by lectures, discussions, film screenings, artistic performances and musical events, demonstrates that feminism and feminist critique play a crucial role in contemporary art and cultural production.

FEMMES 'R' US develops from the work of the Berlin project FEMMES WITH FATAL BREAKS - an all female DJ-MC-network, whose members Ina Wudtke und Christine Lang curated this interdisciplinary program. The project is supported by the Capital Cultural Fund.

## FEMINISM IN POP MUSIC ART FILM TODAY

Last year the exhibition WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution, shown at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and at P.S.1 in New York, as well as the newly opened Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art in the Brooklyn Museum, honored feminist art by historicizing and by museifying it and thereby giving it a place in the canon of art history.

This leads to the question, whether feminist art is a closed chapter. That was also the impression given by the latest Documenta, which situated feminist positions exclusively in the 70s and 80s. Behind this historicisation of feminism lies the danger of its renewed marginalisation. Contemporary feminist art productions are excluded from the art market, in which women are still underrepresented.

In film theory, similar reflections have been made of lately: in the last volume of the feminist journal *Frauen und Film* it is stated that feminism is just another historic category and that critique can no longer orient practice by giving clear directions. This is not the only place where feminist critique seems to quit and to dissolve into globalisation critique.

The project FEMMES 'R' US is intended as a reply to this elegy. It will attempt to deal publicly with the feminist discourses that still today determine art and cultural productions in heterogeneous ways and to make their virulence visible, contrary to the general tendency of their historicisation. The programm establishes diverse links between theory, art, film and club culture and produces interdisciplinary contexts. By doing so, FEMMES 'R' US makes the cultural work of women visible, it also criticizes the male codification and canonisation of art, film and music history and moreover brings feminist theory from the relatively secluded world of academia into the public debate and cultural life of Berlin.

## ART

The core of the FEMMES 'R' US project is a ten days exhibition, around which a theory and a film program, as well as musical performances, are scheduled. The exhibition in the Foyer, Studio B, C and in the Kubus of the Radialsystem shows works by Pauline Boudry (Berlin), Sonia Boyce (London), Patty Chang (New York), Antye Greie (Hailuoto / Berlin), Klub Zwei (Jo Schmeiser / Simone Bader, Wien), Christine Lang (Berlin), Jill Magid (New York), Elke Mark (K<sup>ö</sup>ln), NEID (Berlin), Pipilotti Rist (Zurich), Ina Wudtke (Berlin) a.o.

Pauline Boudry's *A Street Angel With A Cowboy Mouth* is a tour diary of her queer band Rhythm King and Her Friends, in which she reflects on the music business from the perspective of the female artist. In her work *Devotional Series* the London based artist Sonia Boyce celebrates and eternalises black female performers in the British music scene. Two hundred names with outline drawings are printed on wall papers. In her work *Lobby 7*, the New York artist Jill Magid makes use of performative femininity in order to appropriate ubiquitous surveillance technologies. In her video *Melons (at a Loss)*, the New York performance artist Patty Chang plays with her body in a provocative and sexual way, putting aspects of seventies performance art into a contemporary perspective. Antye Greie will be represented with her audio installation *Presswehen*, an aestheticisation of bearing-down pains. Klub Zwei are two Viennese artists Jo Schmeiser and Simone Bader. Their work *Auseinandersetzungen der Töchter mit der Nazivergangenheit ihrer Väter* is an investigation into the relevance and effects of the nazi regime until the present day. The new music video *Quio: Grow Together, Rising Tide* by Christine Lang presents the reversal of gender relationships as obvious and plays with hip hop culture and film tricks. With her sculpture *Tracht I / Karodame*, the Cologne based artist Elke Mark refers to feminist art techniques and works of the 70s. In the 90s, the artists magazine and project NEID shaped the debate on gender issues in the art context. The magazines, discs, CDs, videos and t-shirts which the project produced since 1992 will be on display. Significant artist Pipilotti Rist will be part of the show with an earlier work. The 1990 video *You Called Me Jacky* ironically reflects on the aesthetics of popular culture. In her new video *herspace*, Ina Wudtke will perform diverse roles of female DJs, critically questioning their working conditions. The video is a blue print for independent female workers on the free market.

## THEORY

At the beginning of FEMMES 'R' US, a general theoretic discussion will give some orientation and insight in the contemporary gender debate. A debate with Maria do Mar Castro Varela (Berlin), Chris Straayer (New York), Marina Grzinic (Ljubljana / Vienna), Rosa Reitsamer (Vienna), Tim Stfttgen (Hamburg), Tiina Rosenberg (New York), moderated by Antke Engel of the Institut für Queer Theory, will perform and discuss how complicated gender relations have become. Among others the fact will be discussed that today feminism has to deal with more than two sexes. The introduction to the film section of FEMMES 'R' US will be presented by theoretician Michaela Wünsch (Berlin). She will introduce the different perspectives and contemporary positions have been formulated

diverse concepts of representation, sexual difference and film reception.

## FILM

Viennese artist Constanze Ruhm works on the cross roads between film and art. In a conversation with the art historian Sabeth Buchmann, she will address the question whether an artwork can be feminist at all. - A panel will discuss feminism through the generations: the movie *9 Leben hat die Katze* from 1969 is considered to be one of the first German feminist films. After a screening of the film in the exhibition, there will be a debate with its director Ula Stöckl, Helke Misselwitz and Birgit Großkopf on feminism and film, on historical changes and production conditions. - A short film program with new work of women on the theme *Women At Work* will enable a view on global relations. - The film program will be concluded by film director Daniela Abke's presentation of fragments from the work of Alice Guy, the first female film author in history, on which Abke is currently doing research for a new film project. Aim is to correct film history and to demonstrate to what extent early films were open for strong female figures and atypical role images.

## MUSIC

A music program will accompany the exhibition. Its spectrum goes from dubstep- lounge for the opening over a DJ-Set of Rhythm King and Her Friends, a two days Ableton music software workshop with the famous Berlin DJ Aroma, a workshop about audio mastering with the famous Stefan Betke, to a climax with the big FEMMES 'R' US Party, starring „Breakbeat Queen“ Flore from Lyon, MC Chickaboo from London and DJ Ravissa from Vienna - supported by the DJ- and MC-Team Femmes With Fatal Breaks. - At the finissage, DJ Swingin' Swanee will give a lecture on *Women in Swing & Blues*, before DJ T-Ina Darling & Friends will invite to dance on the Deck.

# PROGRAM

## **FEMMES 'R' US FEMINISM IN POP MUSIC ART FILM TODAY BERLIN, AUGUST 7 - 16, 2008 RADIALSYSTEM V**

### **Thursday, August 7, 2008**

20:00 Exhibition Opening FEMMES 'R' US  
Foyer, Studio B & C, Kubus

#### Participating Artists:

Pauline Boudry (Berlin), Sonia Boyce (London), Patty Chang (New York), Antye Greie (Hailuoto / Berlin), Klub Zwei (Jo Schmeiser / Simone Bader, Vienna), Christine Lang (Berlin), Jill Magid (New York), Elke Mark (Cologne), NEID (Berlin), Pipilotti Rist (Zurich), Ina Wudtke (Berlin) a.o.

22:00 - 0:00: Dubstep-Lounge  
DJ Spoke (Femmes with Fatal Breaks) & MC Ladykay

### **Friday, August 8, 2008**

14:00 - 0:00: Exhibition  
Foyer, Studio B & C, Kubus

17:00 - 20:00: Discussion (in English)  
Studio B

Feminism – government's mission? Economic factor? Insurrection?  
with: Maria do Mar Castro Varela (Berlin), Chris Straayer (New York), Tiina Rosenberg (New York), Rosa Reitsamer (Vienna), Marina Grzinic (Ljubljana/Vienna), Moderation: Antke Engel (Hamburg/Berlin)

Performance by Tim Stüttgen aka Timi Mei Monigatti (Berlin):  
Queerfeminist Desires: Notes on the Precarious Intellect

Gender relations have come to be more and more complicated. For one, the discussions of feminist criticism have been trying to take into account, that social inequalities and hierarchies not only develop along the gender gap, but that a number of other factors also play a role. Origin, education, racism, colonial history and heteronormativity lead to the evolution of various forms of male/femaleness, which are more or less privileged. On the other hand we observe, that the neo-liberal economics of today use differences as business assets: gender mainstreaming and diversity management have become part of the strategies which are being successfully employed by today's leading businesses. Under certain circumstances, being a woman and certain forms of femininity turn out to be an advantage. At least these attributes are not a simple reason for discrimination anymore. The simple order of two sexes is being questioned by those who don't find their place in the either/or of male and female identities. Today's feminism is acknowledging the fact that the possibilities go beyond.

20:00 - 0:00:  
The evening will be concluded with some food and drinks & DJ-Team Rhythm King and Her Friends

## Saturday, August 9, 2008

14:00 - 0:00 Exhibition  
Foyer, Studio B & C, Kubus

14:00: Lecture (in German)  
Studio B

Michaela Wunsch: Positions in feminist film criticism

Starting with Laura Mulvey's much discussed text the lecture will look at different positions of feminist film criticism. Differing points of view from the psychoanalytical perspective will be introduced and set off from other more current positions which are based on theory of affects. We will find out about different concepts of representation, sexual diversity/difference and film reception.

15:00: Film Screening (English subtitles)  
Studio B

X Love Scenes / Pearls without a String by Constanze Ruhm, 2007, 58 mins.

The X Characters project comprises of a series of works of which X Love Scenes is part five. The project takes iconic female identities from cinema history and creates their present time versions.

[www.constanzeruhm.net](http://www.constanzeruhm.net)

16:00: Artist Discussion (in German)  
Studio B

Constanze Ruhm & Sabeth Buchmann Can a work of art be feminist?

17:30: Film Screening (English subtitles)

9 Leben hat die Katze (The Cat Has Nine Lives) by Ula Stöckl, 1968, 86 mins.

Ula Stöckl is a pioneer of womens films. In the film Ula Stöckl portraits a variety of women in a casual, flirtatious and vagabonding fashion. The protagonists are a German journalist, her French girlfriend and a German singer. We learn about their everyday lives, their aspirations, their sex lives and fantasies. She found film metaphors for female lust and shocked women and men alike.

[www.ula-stoeckl.com](http://www.ula-stoeckl.com)

[www.basisfilm.de](http://www.basisfilm.de)

19:00: Panel Discussion (in German)  
Studio B:

Feminist film in FRG, GDR and today?

with Helke Misselwitz, Ula Stöckl, Birgit Großkopf, moderation: Christine Lang

## 23:00: Party

Auditorium

Flore (Lyon) & MC Chickaboo (London), DJ Ravissa (Vienna)

& Femmes with Fatal Breaks (DJ Christine Lang & MC Quio, DJ T-INA Darling, DJ Spoke)

## Sunday, August 10, 2008

14 - 0:00 Exhibition  
Foyer, Studio B & C, Kubus

19:00: Film Screening I  
Studio B

Prinzessin (Princess) by Birgit Grosskopf, 81 mins, 2006 (Engl. subtitles)

During the days between Christmas and New Years Eve German repatriate Katharina, Yvonne and their gang hang out in the cold between depressing high rise buildings. Aspiring director Birgit Großkopf finds poetic pictures to tell us the story of this violent girls' gang in a nameless West German suburb.  
[www.salzgeber.de/prinzessin](http://www.salzgeber.de/prinzessin)

21:00: Film Screening II  
Studio B

Winter Adé (After Winter Comes Spring) by Helke Misselwitz, 116 mins., 1988 (Engl. subtitles)

A journey from the North to the South during the last year of the GDR. Everyone's wish for changes can be felt everywhere. Punk girls, female workers, intellectuals, mothers, young and old women - Helke Misselwitz talks to women about humanity in their county. In every meeting you feel the mutual sympathy. Sympathy for the strong and self-confident women who point out the dubieties with confidence and for those who are looking for their place in life, struggle with it and work hard. The film is full of humour, proximity and warmth. Despite all the criticism, the hope for a future more human remains. [www.progress-film.de](http://www.progress-film.de)

## Monday, August 11, 2008

14:00 - 0:00: Exhibition  
Foyer, Studio B & C, Kubus

20:00 - 0:00: Workshop  
Studio B  
Ableton Live (I) with DJ Aroma (Berlin)

## Tuesday, August 12, 2008

14:00 - 0:00: Exhibition  
Foyer, Studio B & C, Kubus

20:00 - 0:00: Workshop, Studio B  
Ableton Live (II) with DJ Aroma (Berlin)

## Wednesday, August 13, 2008

14:00 - 0:00: Exhibition  
Foyer, Studio B & C, Kubus

## Thursday, August 14, 2008

14:00 - 0:00: Exhibition  
Foyer, Studio B & C, Kubus

20:00 - 0:00: Workshop  
Studio B  
Audio Mastering Workshop  
From mixdown to master. Introductory workshop on audio mastering.

## Friday, August 15, 2008

14:00 - 0:00: Exhibition  
Foyer, Studio B & C

### 18:30 Lecture

Daniela Abke On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Alice Guy's death

Filmmaker Daniela Abke will talk about the creative process that she applied in the making of her found footage film ALICE. The take on the body of filmic work created by Alice Guy (1873-1968) leads us to the beginnings of filmmaking and points out the enthusiastic interest of the pioneer in the complex narrative means of the genre. Before she moved to the United States Alice Guy was the studio manager for Gaumont in Paris from 1896 to 1907 and shot hundreds of films (just like her contemporaries the Brothers Lumière and Georges Méliès). By means of showing a number of examples (a.o. Madame a des Envies, 1908) we'll look at her work as script writer, producer and director, which marked the beginnings of the auteur film genre.

### 20:00: Film Screening

Studio B

Working Girls - short documentary film about women & work (all Engl. subtitles)

Solidarity Bakery by AINA, Afghanistan, 2004, 5 mins.

The short movie by the AINA Women Filming Group from Afghanistan was financed with Unesco subsidies. The film portrays a group of Afghan women who run a bakery, to make a living. Men are not allowed to enter the bakery.

Lakshmi, and Me by Nishtha Jain, India, 2008, 59 mins.

Mumbai-based filmmaker Nishtha Jain portrays her cleaning lady Lakshmi. For over a year and a half she followed the 20 year old woman with a camera to show her daily work, her family life and the meetings of the fledgling cleaner's union of Mumbai. Through the process of filming the two women develop a somewhat unequal friendship with each other. When Nishtha and Lakshmi have tea together Lakshmi prefers to sit on the ground. Despite the fact that the filmmaker pays her protagonist she doesn't degrade her to a pure servant and shows that she can also question her own self-conceptions. ([www.lakshmiandme.com](http://www.lakshmiandme.com))

One Day of Ditte Haarløv-Johnsen, Denmark 2007, 31 mins. (director aboard)

One day in the life of a 36-year-old Ghanaian prostitute who works in an apartment located in the suburbs of Copenhagen. We never see the protagonist in full as the camera discreetly and respectfully only ever shows fragments of her body. The woman's sole outside contacts take place via the telephone. Through these we find out that her and a colleague run a 24-hour-service, how she misses her small daughter whom she left at home in an aunt's care and how she tries to give her a better life by sending money.

Love and Broken Glass by Suvi Andrea Helminen, Denmark, 2006, 35 mins.

13-year-old Guljamal enjoys hanging out with her girlfriends, dreams of love and a boy called Marat. She is a lively and fun-loving girl and she can split glass bottles with a single blow of her bare hand. During the day she has to mind her little brother at home. She has her role in the patriarchy of Kirghiz culture, which still allows young girls to be kidnapped by strange men to be married. Although the „Ala Kachuu“, or bride capture, is illegal in Kyrgyzstan, it is still a strong tradition. According to a current study still 80% of all women in the rural regions are being kidnapped. ([www.nordlysfilm.dk](http://www.nordlysfilm.dk))

## Saturday, August 16, 2008

14:00 - 22:00: Exhibition  
Foyer, Studio B & C

16:00: Lecture  
DJ Swingin' Swanee Women in Swing and Blues

17:00 - 22:00:  
**Finissage with swing & drinks on the roof deck**  
DJ T-INA Darling & Friends

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