

**National Museum of Women in the Arts
(NMWA)**



Goldschmied & Chiari

**Italian candidates at
Women to Watch 2015
National Museum of Women in the Arts
Washington D.C.**

**MiArt
booth ST1
10-12 April 2015**

The **National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA)** of Washington D.C., represented by the Italian Association **Amici del NMWA** introduce its activities and the exhibition **Women to Watch 2015**.

The participation of the **National Museum of Women in the Arts** at **MiArt 2015** represented by its Italian delegation, is organized by **Nicoletta Rusconi Art Projects** thanks to the generous contribution of **Vhernier**, Italian brand of the finest high-end artisan jewelry design.

Formed initially as a 'Museum without walls' to allow scholars to visit the female artists collection gathered over the years by **Mr. and Mrs. Holladay**, the **National Museum of Women in the Arts** opens to the public in the spring of 1987, taking residence in a historic mansion in downtown Washington, DC near the White House. The Museum has a permanent collection of nearly 3,000 works from the Renaissance to present day, is one of the most important private interlocutors in American and international artistic circle. The **NMWA** is "*the only institution in the world dedicated to the recognition of women's artistic achievements and contributions of all periods and nationalities, through the exhibition, conservation, acquisition, research and education on women's art*", so Mrs. Wilhelmina Cole Holladay. To achieve its objectives, the NMWA preserves and exhibits a permanent collection, presents extraordinary exhibitions, plays educational programs aimed at adults and children, maintains a library frequented by scholars from around the world, as well as maintains a Research Centre, and publishes a quarterly magazines and books on women artists. The NMWA also houses dance performances, theatre, cinema, literary readings, and other creative disciplines (www.nmwa.org).

Women to Watch 2015

Organic Matters

At the NMWA in Washington DC from June, 5 to September 13, 2015

The exhibition series **Women to Watch** is developed every two or three years in collaboration with NMWA's national and international committees, to increase the visibility of artists who are working in innovative ways within a variety of creative communities.

Organic Matters, curated by **Virginia Trenor**, is the theme of *Women to Watch 2015*. Depictions of nature can illuminate themes of sexuality, gender politics, the abject, and the sublime. In the fourth installment of the NMWA's Women to Watch exhibition series, contemporary artists use imagery and materials taken from the natural world. The works on view recontextualize images of plants and animals and redefine the relationships between women, nature, and art. Calling to mind entrenched associations of women with nature, the exhibition opens a dialogue about these traditional views.

The artists whose work will be featured in the exhibition at the museum on behalf of the Italian committee Gli Amici del NMWA for the 2015 edition are Goldschmied e Chiari, nominated by Iolanda Ratti, curator of Milan's Museo del Novecento.

Gli Amici del National Museum of Women in the Arts

The Italian Association **Gli Amici del National Museum of Women in the Arts** was born in Milan in 2004, thanks to **Vittorio Mosca**, its founder and first president. Among the cultural events related to the art world, the Association **Gli Amici del NMWA** proposes itself as an interesting and lively cultural scene in the city of Milan. Its commitment "*is to support and promote the Mission of the National Museum of Women in the Arts on Italian territory, which is dedicated to the enhancement and promotion of feminine creativity through support, training and communication of synergistic aspects between the National Museum of Women in the Arts and the realities of Italian museums*". In the intent of the Association there are research initiatives, investigations and exploration of Italian historical and contemporary art reality. Promoting and raising awareness of cultural contributions and encouraging furtherance of female talents in the arts through the organization of art conventions, guided exhibitions tours and expositions, conversational encounters with artists and practitioners of historical artistic, entertainment and publishing circles, and of convivial evenings under the banner of female creativity. Some events are tied to specific projects in support of women's most difficult realities. There are also projects supporting the training of artists, besides sustainment, protection and preservation of their work. The NMWA and the Italian association **Gli Amici del NMWA** intend to offer artists new opportunities for new horizons, without conceiving its Mission in terms of self-referential separatism: its intent is not celebrating a gender identity, but to achieve a sense of common belonging of the artist to the world of art, which is an emanation of the culture of the entire human species (www.gliamicidelnmwa.com).

The national and international Committees of the NMWA are voluntary associations supporting the goals of the museum, and with the Italian Association **Gli Amici del NMWA**, now are a dozen international affiliates.

Goldschmied & Chiari, Sara Goldschmied (1975) and Eleonora Chiari (1971) have been working as an artistic duo since 2001 under the name goldiechiari. Currently they live and work between Rome and Milan. Using installation, video, and photography, their practice explores the concepts of nature, history and memory, focusing on themes of amnesia, deletion/reconstruction, and reflection. Recently, they have been analysing specific moments in recent political history to demonstrate the opacity of memory, together with the strategies employed to erase truths or create new ones. Central Goldschmied & Chiari work has also been an exploration of sexuality and female identity, which they often propose as the product of real and imaginary experiences imposed by society and the surrounding culture.

In occasion of the participation of the **National Museum of Women in the Arts** at **MiArt 2015** the artists show two works *Medusa Mirrors* (digital print on mirror, cm 135x225).

Medusa mirrors, 2014 (printed with numeric impression mirrors, 225x135 cm) are photographs of staged colored smoke printed on mirror surface. The choice of using those materials are the result of the Goldschmied & Chiari research of the utilization of the mirror as an important stage device for illusionists during the 900 century. The images of smokes are inspired by the first cinematographic imaginary: the Surrealist cinema, that of Georges Méliès, Jean Coucteau and René Clair.

Nicoletta Rusconi Art Projects Nicoletta Rusconi Art Projects works on the production of independent art and cultural projects, in collaboration with internationally renowned artists and Italian companies interested in investing in the production of art works, exhibitions and cultural initiatives. With years of experience in the gallery business, Fotografia Italiana first and Nicoletta Rusconi arte contemporanea afterwards, the natural course of evolution for the new Art Projects was to work on the creation of a solid collaboration between the artists, the business world, institutions, collectors and the public.

Projects are followed from the production of works of art and design, right through to bespoke event organization, editorial services and fundraising (www.nicolettarusconi.com).

Vhernier was founded in 1984 in Valenza as a jeweller's workshop. In 2001 Carlo Traglio became President of Vhernier. His objective was to develop the company while maintaining its history and tradition supported by highly skilled craftsmen who have mastered all the technical secrets to perfection.

Vhernier is glad to present the "Women to Watch 2015" competition, fully convinced that the female perspective must be enhanced, since it is essential for exploring the present and crucial for creating the future.

The artists invited to take part in the competition are asked to reflect on nature, something that has always been contemplated by Vhernier, the Italian brand of fine jewellery. With its enchanted vision of the world, Vhernier observes and interprets nature, transforming it into precious objects in daily use. Typical examples are the luminous jade of the caterpillar brooch. Or the exquisite fragility of a calla conveyed by a series of ebony, gold and diamond cones.

Its support for the National Museum of Women in the Arts is further proof of the bond that exists between Vhernier and the world of art, a universe that shares its distinctive values of innovation, modernity and uniqueness.

(www.vhernier.com)

image: Goldschmied & Chiari, *Nymphs #12*, 2007, Lambda print, cm 125x333. Courtesy the artists, Grimaldi Gavin, London and Kristen Lorello, NY



Organization and communication:

■ Nicoletta Rusconi Art Projects

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