

Press Release August 2018

Judith K. Brodsky *The Twenty Most Important Scientific Questions of the 21st Century* on view September 4 - December 14, 2018

The Center for Women in the Arts and Humanities is pleased to announce that renowned artist and activist **Judith K. Brodsky**, Distinguished Professor Emerita in the Department of Visual Arts, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University has been named the **2018-19 Estelle Lebowitz Endowed Visiting Artist** at Rutgers University. The Lebowitz program annually brings to the University community and general public the work and ideas of exceptional women artists through solo exhibitions, lectures, and short campus residencies.



Judith K. Brodsky, *Can We Live Forever?*, 2016 Photo Credit: Dorothy Paolo

Brodsky's solo exhibition, *The Twenty Most Important Scientific Questions of the 21st Century*, will be on view from September 4 – December 14, 2018, in the Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series Galleries, Douglass Library. The exhibit is **curated by** art historian, curator, women's studies scholar, and librarian, **Dr. Ferris Olin** who also holds the title Distinguished Professor Emerita at Rutgers University. To accompany the exhibition, CWAH will publish a comprehensive online catalog in 2019 with an essay by the curator.

On **Tuesday, October 30th** at **5pm** in the Mabel Smith Douglass Room, Douglass Library, there will be a **reception** in honor of Brodsky followed by an **artist's lecture** from **5:30 - 7pm** that will include a **discussion** on the relationship between art and science with her daughter, molecular biologist **Professor Frances M. Brodsky, Director of Biosciences, University College London**. Dr. Brodsky previously was a professor at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). With over 100 scientific papers to her credit, she has also written a series of mystery novels with a scientific theme.

Judith K. Brodsky works with a contemporary iconography, one that is often ironic and sometimes humorous, reflecting the intellectual, political, and social issues of the present world. She is known for her etchings and lithographs, and her work is in many permanent collections worldwide including the New Jersey State Museum, Harvard University Museums, Library of Congress, Victoria & Albert, London, and Stadtmuseum, Berlin.

Scientific themes have been present in Brodsky's work throughout her career, and she explores the impact of science on our society further in her current body of work, *The Twenty Most Important Scientific Questions of the 21st Century*. The series was inspired by an article in the *New York Times*, in which the editor of the science section on Tuesdays queried various scientists about their views. Brodsky says that the questions immediately elicited visual images for her. The series consists of large drawings that have digital elements. The images address such questions as "How Many Body Parts Can Be Replaced? Are Men (Women) Necessary? What Is the Hardest Math

Problem? Could Science Prove There's a God?". Brodsky states, "I hope that viewers will go away thinking about the impact and importance of science in their lives and in the future of the world—about the origins of the universe, about climate, about gender and sexuality, and about the extension of life and what it means".

Brodsky is an arts administrator, activist, educator, curator, writer, and entrepreneur, who has held numerous leadership positions in the art world. She is currently chair of the board of the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the past national president of ArtTable, College Art Association, and Women's Caucus for Art. She is the founder of the Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper renamed the Brodsky Center in her honor, housed at Rutgers for many years, and now located at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Brodsky and Olin have been collaborating on projects to bring recognition to women artists and artists of color for many decades and are the co-founders and first co-directors of the Institute for Women and Art (now known as the Center for Women in the Arts and Humanities). Together they established The Feminist Art Project and the Miriam Schapiro Archives at Rutgers University. Olin was the curator of the Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series from 1995 to 2006 and later (with Brodsky) from 2006 to 2013. Additionally, they are the authors of a new book that profiles female leaders in music, theater, dance, and the visual arts titled, *Junctures in Women's Leadership: The Arts*, part of a series initiated by the Rutgers Institute for Women's Leadership and published by Rutgers University Press (2018).

Venue Information

The exhibition and event are free and open to public. The Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series Galleries are located in the Mabel Smith Douglass Library (8 Chapel Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901). Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 9am - 10pm, and are subject to the university libraries operating schedule. **Further information about the exhibition, event, accessibility services, and parking can be found at cwah.rutgers.edu.** Inquires should be directed to: womenart@cwah.rutgers.edu.

Supporters

The exhibition and event are funded in part by the Estelle Lebowitz Memorial Fund and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Co-sponsors include: Art Library-RUL; Center for Cultural Analysis-School of Arts and Sciences (SAS); Department of Art & Design-Mason Gross School of the Arts (MGSA); Department of Art History-SAS; Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry-SAS; Douglass Project for Rutgers Women in Math, Science, and Engineering-DRC; Douglass Residential College (DRC); Global Village-DRC; Institute for Research on Women; Institute for Women's Leadership; Margery Somers Foster Center-RUL; Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics (WiSEM); Zimmerli Art Museum.

General Information

The Center for Women in the Arts and Humanities (CWAH) is a university-wide unit reporting to the Associate Vice President for Strategic Initiatives under the auspices of the **Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs**, and a consortium member of the Institute for Women's Leadership, at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series, a program of CWAH in partnership with Rutgers University Libraries (RUL), was founded in 1971 by Douglass graduate and artist Joan Snyder (DC '62) under the leadership of Library Director, Daisy Brightenback Shenholm (DC '44).

