

The Maternal Body Exposed (CAA, Chicago, 12-15 Feb 14)

CAA Annual Conference, Chicago, Feb 12-15, 2014

Deadline: May 6, 2013

Rachel Epp Buller

Women's Caucus for Art

The Maternal Body Exposed: Fecundity, Birth Control, and Countering Infertility in Contemporary Art

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Nude women abound in art—but rarely their swollen forms or leaking breasts. Adolescent bodies and models of virginal motherhood dominate the historical visual discourse, offering narrow visions of maternity. This session examines the ways in which the maternal body operates in contemporary art and visual culture. What does it mean to make visible the postpartum body? What are the artistic implications of today's options to control pregnancy and infertility that redefine maternity in terms of adoption, surrogacy, egg harvesting, or assisted reproduction? Art history's idealization of the fertile, feminine body stands in stark contrast to the contemporary "problems" caused by the maternal body—for women in the workplace, or even in public.

This open forms panel seeks participants for short presentations, roundtable discussion, and dialogue with the audience on the art of the contemporary maternal, as well as the challenges, strategies, and possibilities offered by the maternal body.

Proposals due by May 6, 2013: email letter of interest, 1-2 page proposal, CV, and other application information to address above.

Details and full call for participation:

<http://www.collegeart.org/pdf/2014CallforParticipation.pdf>

Reference:

CFP: The Maternal Body Exposed (CAA, Chicago, 12-15 Feb 14). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 22, 2013 (accessed Apr 25, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/5152>>.