



THE SUZANNE GEISS COMPANY PRESENTS

ANITA STECKEL

ANITA OF NEW YORK

November 2 - December 7, 2013

OPENING : November 2, 6-8pm

The Suzanne Geiss Company, 76 Grand Street, New York, NY



Giant Woman Series, Coney Island, Photo collage, c. 1973

For immediate release Thursday, October 3rd, 2013

NEW YORK, NY

The Suzanne Geiss Company is pleased to present a selection of Anita Steckel's works from her *Giant Woman* (1970-1973) and *New York Landscape* (1970-1980) series.

Steckel's large-scale *New York Landscape* collaged paintings fuse imagery inspired by the human, art historical, and urban bodies. Supine female figures, erect phalluses, dollar bills, the Mona Lisa, and other massive cultural symbols are inserted into the skyline. They sit on skyscrapers, make love, even battle in a humorous take on the city's fraught, psychosexual sense of identity.



The Giant Woman series explores a more directly personal agenda. In these black and white photo collages, Steckel superimposes her own face onto vast female nudes that are embedded into recognizable New York City sites and events. In one iconic scene, a Giant Woman hangs over the Empire State building, her abdomen pierced by the spire.

Steckel engages with the deeply personal to highly political by combining socio-political commentary, sense-of-place imagery, surrealism, and personal fantasy. An active member of the social movements of her time, Steckel embodies the feminist mantra "The Personal is Political" and was at the forefront of introducing erotic ambiguity into the field of feminist art. In 1972, a Rockland County legislator attempted to censor many of the works that will be included in this exhibition due to their sexual imagery. Admonishing the censorship of art in general, Steckel's response was that, "If the erect penis is not wholesome enough to go into a museum, it should not be considered wholesome enough to go into women."

ABOUT ANITA STECKEL

Anita Steckel (1930-2012) was born in Brooklyn, New York and lived most of her adult life in Greenwich Village. Steckel studied at Manhattan's High School of Music and Art, Cooper Union, Alfred University, and the Art Students League, where she also taught from 1984 until her death in 2012. She founded The Fight Censorship Group in 1973 whose members included Hannah Wilke, Louise Bourgeois, and Judith Bernstein. The Fight Censorship Group advocated against censorship and for the acceptance of women's sexual art into museums. During Steckel's long career, she worked with collage, montage, painting, sculpture, and photography. Her work addresses issues of gender, sexuality, politics, jazz, humor, and anthropology. Steckel's work was published in *WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution*, MIT Press, 2007; *Mary H. Dana Women Artists Series, 25th Year Retrospective*, The Rutgers University Libraries, 2006; *Heresies*, 1981; *Woman Artists Newsletter 3*, No. 3, 1977; *Womanart 2*, No. 1, 1977; *Changes*, Vol. 86 1974; and *The Gallery of Erotic Art: Inaugural Exhibition*, New York The Gallery of Erotic Art, 1969.

Hours Open

Tuesday-Saturday 12-6pm

To receive additional information please contact: info@suzannegeiss.com