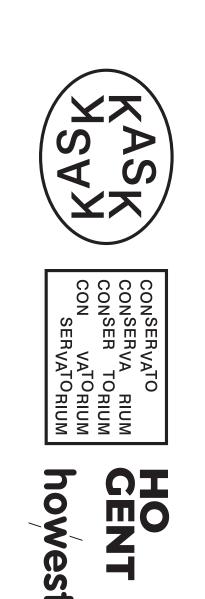
Laura Sofía Arbeláez Laurine Tribolet

Gampus Bijoke Gebouw Pauli www.kunstenbibliotheek.be

30.05 0.05 0.05 0.05 0.03 1

Please discuss the absence of female artists*



* The title was inspired by an anonymous handwritten note from 1970 (exhibition catalog *Seth Siegelaub: Beyond Conceptual Art*, Sara Martinetti & Leontine Coelewij (eds), Stedelijk Museum, 2016. Also mentioned in the « Speaking Volumes » by Loraine Furter, 2017.

Please discuss the absence of female artists highlights the representation of women artists in Kunstenbibliotheek's artists' book collection, which currently stands at 25%. This percentage reflects historical, societal biases and the lack of diversity within the collection. The exhibition showcases women artists' struggles, triumphs, and contributions to the art world while acknowledging the historical lack of representation in the collection and, more widely, in the art world.

Women artists have used publications as exhibition spaces, especially since the second feminist wave, to promote their work and participate collectively in the representation of diversity and inclusivity. Nevertheless, women still face challenges in having space in museums, galleries, and publishing houses. With women's monographs occupying 25% of the vitrine, the display of the books gives a glimpse of some polyphonic voices in Kunstenbibliotheek. In addition, we noticed that since 2000, there has been a slight increase in publications dedicated to women artists, with a more significant peak increase since 2016. We also discovered that Kunstenbibliotheek has an extensive collection of publications by former female students. It is essential to continue promoting diversity within these educational institutions.

This exhibition focuses on women artists, but it invites all of us to research other issues of representation in the Kunstenbibliotheek and work towards diversity and inclusivity. The mirror covering 75% of the vitrine is a space of reflection and possibilities for the future. This space invites all school members to take action to change this majority into a plurality of voices. Accordingly, the exhibition aims to inspire conversations, collective action, and steps toward a more inclusive art school. As such, we invite all of us to recommend new acquisitions to the library and to join us in this journey towards greater representation and diversity in the arts.

To share books you would like to see in Kunstenbibliotheek collection, please contact: kunstenbibliotheek@hogent.be.

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MA-VR: 08:30-18:30