THE BMA PRESENTS 30 YEARS OF PROTEST POSTERS
BY THE GROUNDBREAKING GUERRILLA GIRLS COLLECTIVE

Inspired by the exhibition, BMA hosts Election Night Party on Tuesday, November 8

BALTIMORE, MD (August 25, 2016)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) presents Front Room: Guerrilla Girls, a selection of 48 works by the New York-based anonymous feminist collective known for using humor to confront sexism and racism in the art world. The works are drawn from their Portfolio Compleat—a compilation of nearly 90 projects undertaken by the group between 1985 and 2012 that was acquired by the BMA in 2015. The exhibition is on view September 25, 2016 through March 12, 2017 in the Front Room Gallery of the museum’s contemporary wing.

Curated by Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Kristen Hileman, Front Room: Guerrilla Girls underscores the New York-based group’s edgy, energetic, and unconventional 30-plus year crusade to call attention to the ways in which museums, private collectors, publications, and the art market have historically marginalized women artists and artists of color. Using a combination of audacious graphics, telling statistics, and provocative humor, their pronouncements are funny, stark, and highly critical of some of their field’s most powerful institutions and individuals, making anonymity a necessary protection for the independent careers members pursue under their own names. Examples of works featured in the exhibition are Do Women Have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum? (1989 and 2012 update), There’s a tragedy on Broadway and it isn’t Electra (1999), and Museums cave in to radical feminists! (2008)

Inspired by the exhibition, the BMA will host an Election Night Party on Tuesday, November 8, 7-10 p.m. Gather at the BMA to make political posters and masks; join in-gallery conversations on the intersection of art and politics; and stay up-to-date on the election returns. The evening will also include light refreshments and cash bar from Alma Cocina Latina and a DJ. Tickets are $10 or $5 for BMA Members and students with valid I.D. Purchase tickets at the BMA Box Office in the East Lobby or artbma.org. The event is co-sponsored by Center Stage and the League of Women Voters of Baltimore City.

In keeping with the spirit of the Guerrilla Girls, the exhibition has received generous support from 14 women and one woman-owned business in Baltimore: Virginia K. Adams, Sherry Christhilf, Suzanne F. Cohen, Nancy Dorman, Nupur Parekh Flynn, Sandra Levi Gerstung, Joanne Gold, Nancy Hackerman, Patricia Joseph, Madeline E. Lacovara, Jennifer O’Hara Martin, Amy Frenkil Meadows, Rachel Rabinowitz, Clair Zamoiski Segal, and Alpha Graphics.

—more—
ABOUT THE GUERRILLA GIRLS
Formed in 1985, the Guerrilla Girls are a group of anonymous female artists who produce posters, stickers, books, printed projects, and actions that expose sexism and racism in politics, the art world, and the culture at large. The group’s members protect their individual identities by wearing gorilla masks during public appearances, and by adopting the names of deceased famous female figures such as Edmonia Lewis, Käthe Kollwitz, and Frida Kahlo. The Guerrilla Girls’ work is held in the collections of many prominent institutions, including The Museum of Modern Art, the Walker Art Center, the Tate, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Brooklyn Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Getty Institute. Among these museums are some that have been the subject of the Guerrilla Girls’ critiques. In recent years, the Guerrilla Girls have made appearances at over 90 universities and museums and been covered by The New York Times, Interview, The Washington Post, The New Yorker, Artforum, NPR, BBC, and CBC. The group’s publications include The Guerrilla Girls’ Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art and Bitches, Bimbos and Ballbreakers: The Guerrilla Girls’ Guide to Female Stereotypes.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 objects—including the largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; significant artworks from China; stunning Antioch mosaics; and an exceptional collection of art from Africa. The BMA’s galleries also showcase examples from one of the nation’s finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped sculpture gardens. As a major cultural destination for the region, the BMA hosts a dynamic program of exhibitions, events, and educational programs throughout the year. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION
General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.—5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.—6 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year’s Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

Connect with us: #ARTBMA • Blog • Facebook • Twitter • Instagram • YouTube

# # #

Image:
From the "Portfolio Compleat". The Baltimore Museum of Art:
Women’s Committee Acquisitions Endowment for Contemporary Prints and Photographs, BMA 2015.47.66. © Guerrilla Girls