

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Women's Studio Workshop
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The Exhibition *A Radical Alteration: Women's Studio Workshop As A Sustainable Model For Art Making* Examines a 50 Year Legacy of Independent Publishing in the Hudson Valley

Exhibition on view until January 2025
722 Binnewater Lane, Kingston NY
Free and Open to the Public

Kingston, NY- Women's Studio Workshop (WSW) celebrates their 50th anniversary and showcases a rich history of uplifting those historically underrepresented in the arts. In a two-story home in Rosendale, NY, four young artists Ann Kalmbach, Tatana Kellner, Barbara Leoff, and Anita Wetzel formed a teaching collective. Responding to the lack of creative spaces and arts education available for women in 1974, Women's Studio Collective, now known as Women's Studio Workshop, rose to the occasion as a community space for artists of all ages and backgrounds. The organization rapidly expanded and generated new income sources in reaction to the growing needs of their artists. As they grew, they also expanded their mission to more fully serve their founding values and now support trans, nonbinary, intersex, and genderfluid artists.

In 1979, WSW launched an artists' book publication program— a rare opportunity for women artists at the time—and the publications continue to be a centerpiece of their programming. They have published over 240 books in their 50 year history. These books can have a traditional book structure with a cover and sequential pages, they can be sculptural objects, or elaborately folded constructions. Hand printed and bound in our studios with the artist as the leading visionary for the project, these books are created onsite during the artist's residency with studio staff overseeing the production process. The books are then placed in collections world-wide, including eleven institutions that are repositories for all WSW's publications including Yale University, The Library of Congress, and more.

Through 2025, guests can immerse themselves in WSW's rich publication history as they view decades worth of artists' books on view in the traveling exhibition *A Radical Alteration: Women's Studio Workshop As A Sustainable Model For Art Making*, curated by Maymanah Farhat. Farhat describes artists' books as creating a feeling of interiority, encouraging viewers to trust in the artist's intuition. Much like WSW, where the founders were able to foster an environment where "subjectivity, intimacy, and interiority are valued," these qualities are in turn reflected in the work on display.

In addition to the work of local artists like Maureen Cummins, Amy Purdy, Carolee Schneemann, and Tona Wilson, Deputy Director Natalie Renganeschi cites *11033* by IBe' Bulinda Crawley as a personal highlight. "This book is especially close to my heart, not only because of the rich history and heartbreaking narrative literally embedded in its handmade paper pages, but also because it's one of the only publications to use every single one of our studios in its production," she shares. "I love to talk about this book, but it needs to be seen in person to grasp its full gravity. I feel proud that WSW was able to facilitate Crawley's vision and bring this book to life."

A Radical Alteration has been traveling around the country since January of this year. It debuted at San Francisco Center for the Book, followed by a stop at Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, and it will travel to Minnesota Center for Book Arts and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington DC in 2025. It will be on view and open to the public from 9am - 5pm Monday through Friday at Women's Studio Workshop's gallery space until January 2025.

About the Curator – Maymanah Farhat is an award-winning curator, writer, and university lecturer whose research and scholarship focus on underrepresented artists and forgotten art scenes. She has curated exhibitions for museums, nonprofits, and university galleries throughout the U.S. and abroad, including the Tacoma Art Museum, Minnesota Museum of American Art, The Gallery at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts, Qatar, and Beirut Exhibition Center.

Women's Studio Workshop (WSW) is a visual arts organization in Kingston, New York. Since 1974, WSW has brought over 5,000 artists from across the globe to work in the printmaking, hand papermaking, letterpress printing, photography, book arts, and ceramics studios. Over 6,500 Ulster County youth have participated in WSW's Art-in-Education program. WSW's artists' book grant program has published more than 240 artists' books, collected by special collections of major libraries and museums including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Tate Modern, and The Library of Congress, among others.

WSW programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature. Additional funding comes from the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, Hershey Foundation, Ruth Arts, Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Cowles Charitable Trust, Agnes Gund, Durst Foundation, NOVO Foundation, Hauser & Wirth Institute, Strypemonde Foundation, Stewart's Shops, Klock Kingston Foundation, and Windgate Charitable Foundation.

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