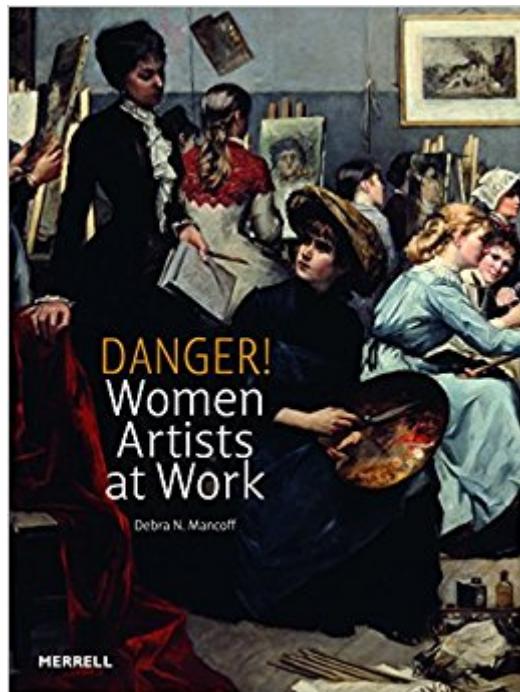


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# Danger! Women Artists At Work



## Synopsis

The conventional history of art is one of great men making great paintings, and displaying their works to a predominantly male audience in male-run institutions. Women, however, have had a role, often working behind the scenes, out of sight or in resistance to prevailing attitudes and practices. And it is in these exceptions to the rules of the masculine world of art-making that women artists have been perceived as groundbreaking, defiant and even subversive. A compelling selection of more than 60 artists from the early Renaissance to the present day, among them Judith Leyster, Mary Cassatt, Frida Kahlo and Louise Bourgeois, *Danger! Women Artists at Work* explores the most intriguing and provocative aspects of art by women who shook up the art world. Through a lively introduction and six thematic chapters dealing with such subjects as the ways in which women have challenged the boundaries of expression and how they have viewed the human body, Debra N. Mancoff presents an absorbing tale of those who have struggled and triumphed in their efforts to transform the visual arts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The perfect gift for any casual or serious art lover; *Danger! Women Artists at Work* is a delightful walk through history, and offers an overdue education and appreciation of women artists; Seattle Post Intelligencer Mancoff gives tantalising glimpses into a world of women fighting to be recognized as artists; well-written, accessible and full of beautiful prints " Blogcritics

DEBRA N. MANCOFF is Adjunct Professor of Art History, Theory and Criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her publications include *Icons of Beauty: Art, Culture, and the Image of Women* (2010) and *The Garden in Art* (Merrell, 2011). She lectures regularly at many of the major museums in the United States and Great Britain.

This text is one that should be included with all art history studies since the contents are unlikely to be included in any generalized texts which are typically based on the male history of art. With a few, very few, exceptions. Sadly.

This is rather like one of those compilation books along the lines of "100 paintings you must see" or "50 artists you should know" or whatever; in this case 60 women artists are given a general two-page spread each - one page of explanatory text and one example of work, in some cases with a photograph of the artist alongside. The book is a good solid hardback with 110 illustrations, 90 of which are in colour; the plates are of good size and reproduction quality, representing artists working in a wide range of media - from traditional painting to performance, photography and installation/multi-media. It is arranged by thematic chapters rather than chronologically or alphabetically and the artists featured date from the time of the Renaissance to the present. My only gripe with the book is that for every artist included I could think of at least two others who weren't - this could easily have been three or four times bigger and still would have left out important figures. The artists selected are a bit of a mixed bag, but it's still a praiseworthy effort; there are sure to be a few artists you haven't encountered before, even with some - I think - rather glaring omissions. At current prices, it's a decent addition to the library; it is by no means comprehensive and doesn't claim to be anything other than a general historic overview, but it is a nice and reasonably informative book to have. 3 ½ stars, ideally.

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