

Downtown For Democracy

For Immediate Release

ABORTION IS NORMAL

**Artists Unite for Exhibition Transforming Cultural Influence into Political Power
Jan 9-18 at Eva Presenhuber & Jan 21-Feb 1 at Arsenal Contemporary in New York City**

New York, NY – – Downtown for Democracy, the cultural Super PAC, is pleased to announce *Abortion Is Normal*, an exhibition organized by a collective of cultural practitioners as an urgent call-to-action to raise both awareness and funding in support of accessible, safe, and legal abortion. This show comes at a time when legal abortion is under acute attack throughout the United States, with fifty-eight restrictive laws passed in the United States since January 2019 alone. Simultaneously, the 1973 landmark ruling, *Roe vs. Wade*, which federally sanction the right to choose, is in jeopardy of being reversed.

Abortion is Normal is co-curated by Jasmine Wahi and Rebecca Pauline Jampol, and co-organized by Marilyn Minter, Gina Nanni, Laurie Simmons, and Sandy Tait. The two-part exhibition will take place at Eva Presenhuber and Arsenal Contemporary in New York City, opening at Eva Presenhuber at 39 Great Jones Street on Thursday, January 9, through Saturday, January 18, and at Arsenal Contemporary at 214 Bowery on Tuesday January 21 through Saturday, February 1. Works will be available for viewing and purchase exclusively through Artsy at artsy.net/downtownfordemocracy. Crozier Fine Art is pleased to provide purchasers discounted shipping fees in support of the cause. More information is available at abortionisnormal.org.

Participating artists include: Alison Janae Hamilton, Ameya Marie, Amy Khoshbin, Andrea Chung, Arlene Shechet, Barbara Kruger, Betty Tompkins, Carroll Dunham, Catherine Opie, Cecily Brown, Chloe Wise, Chris Myers, Christen Clifford, Cindy Sherman, Delano Dunn, Dominique Duroseau, ELEKTRA KB, Fin Simonetti, Grace Graupe Pillard, Hank Willis Thomas, hayv kahraman, Jaishri Abichandani, Jane Kaplowitz, Jon Kessler, Jonathan Horowitz, Judith Bernstein, Judith Hudson, Laurie Simmons, Louise Lawler, Lyle Ashton Harris, Marilyn Minter, Mika Rottenberg, Nadine Faraj, Nan Goldin, Natalie Frank, Rob Pruitt, Ryan McGinley, Sarah Sze, Shirin Neshat, Shoshanna Weinberger, Sojourner Truth Parsons, Sue Williams, Suzy Lake, Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, Viva Ruiz/Thank God For Abortion, Wangechi Mutu, Xaveria Simmons, Walter Robinson, and Zoe Buckman, among others.

The exhibition brings together a heterogeneous array of artists countering with their personal response to abortion and abortion access in order to create an inclusive and empathetic entry point to this conversation. “This show is about reproductive rights, and more expansively about our right to own our own bodies. Many of the artists have not physically gone through an abortion procedure, but have a shared understanding that safe, accessible reproductive rights are absolutely necessary” says Wahi. *Abortion Is Normal* is about access, open conversations, acknowledgment of intersectionality, inclusivity, and visibility within the context of a conversation on reproductive rights. It strives to be multi-centered in its approach; acknowledging both the nuance of who is affected by legal abortion as well as who is affected by the potentiality of relinquishing safe and legal access to care.

Jasmine Wahi is a curator, activist, TEDx speaker, and a founder + co-director of the non-profit Project for Empty Space. Her practice focuses on issues of female empowerment, complicating

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binary structures within social discourses, and exploring multi-positional cultural identities through the lens of intersectional feminism. Rebecca Pauline Jampol is a Curator, Designer, and Co-Director of Project For Empty Space. Her work is dedicated to cultivating impactful social dialogue and change through her interdisciplinary creative praxis, fostering discourse through a variety of projects ranging from gallery work and publishing to public art programs.

All of the proceeds from the sale of this work will go to Downtown for Democracy, with the PAC distributing half of proceeds to fund voter education and advocacy specifically on reproductive rights, and half of the funds to Planned Parenthood PAC efforts in upcoming 2020 elections. Laura McQuade, President of one of the beneficiaries, Planned Parenthood Greater New York Votes PAC, adds “Planned Parenthood Greater New York Votes PAC is laser focused on electing leaders who will protect and advance sexual and reproductive health care for all New Yorkers. That mission will always include expanding access to abortion. Abortion is a vital part of comprehensive health care. We are proud to have the support of talented artists who unapologetically use their gift to tell beautiful stories and humanize abortion care.”

Downtown for Democracy aspires to motivate activism through image, word, music, and all other forms of creativity. It seeks to remind fellow citizens of ideals that bind us as a nation: liberty and equality. Downtown for Democracy uses creative capital, raising funds that will be spent in key congressional districts to get out the progressive vote in 2020. Founded in 2003 as a cultural PAC, Downtown for Democracy participated in several election cycles, and was revived in 2017 after a hiatus. Just this month, Downtown for Democracy announced over \$100,000 in funds provided to groups including Black Voters Matter, BLOC (Black Leaders Organizing for Communities), Empire State Indivisible, Fair Fight, Flip the Senate, RAICES, Supermajority and Swing Left, with donations earmarked for grassroots voter turnout and community organizing efforts. For more information, visit downtown4democracy.org

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