

## **ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON WOMEN'S ISSUES IN OTHER ART FORMS**

**Preliminary Note:** Almost every art form has a national alliance similar to Theatre Communications Group, and these organizations often track the activities of their members. The staff at these organizations may be able to provide leads about their own gender research or other women's groups that are doing research in their art form. There is a good list of these national organizations at: <http://www.westarts.org/links.html#regional>

### **Women in Film and Television**

Martha Lauzen, who is a professor at San Diego State University, has established the **Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film** (<http://womenintvfilm.sdsu.edu/>). The center has three activities: annual research studies, a speaker series, and courses taught at San Diego State by the researchers affiliated with the center.

For many years, Lauzen has published annual updates of two studies: *The Celluloid Ceiling* (on women's employment in film) and *Boxed In* (on women's employment in television). More recently and she has branched out into studies of designers and production staff on films, and female film critics (*Thumbs Down*). See <http://womenintvfilm.sdsu.edu/research.html> for links to all of these studies.

Martha Lauzen's site includes a list of organizations involved in women's issues in film and television at: <http://womenintvfilm.sdsu.edu/resources.html>

### **Geena Davis Institute on Gender and Media -**

<http://www.thegeenadavisinstitute.org/research.php> - The Institute's work is based on the largest research project ever undertaken on gender in children's entertainment. Dr. Stacy Smith and her team at USC's Annenberg School for Communication carried out 4 discrete studies, including one on children's television and three on film. You can download the research at: <http://www.thegeenadavisinstitute.org/research.php>

**Women in Film and Television International** ([www.wifti.org](http://www.wifti.org)) that has 40 chapters all over the world (see their list at: <http://www.wifti.org/directory.cfm>) Two of the biggest ones are **New York Women in Film and Television** and **Women in Film in and Television/LA**, and there are chapters in many major cities in the U.S. and elsewhere. These are networking organizations for professionals in the field that offer a variety of conferences, workshops, and film screenings.

The **Alliance of Women Directors** is a professional networking group of women film and TV directors in Los Angeles. ([www.allianceofwomendirectors.org](http://www.allianceofwomendirectors.org))

There are also women's caucuses in all of the relevant union groups in Los Angeles.

**The Women's Media Center** is based in New York and has Gloria Steinem and Jane Fonda on their board. A major part of their mission is training women to be effective and employed journalists and they maintain a website with news about women. ([www.womensmediacenter.com](http://www.womensmediacenter.com))

**The Alliance of Women Film Journalists** (<http://awfj.org/>) is an organization of professional women film critics. They have an annual awards program and do other events.

**Women Make Movies** ([www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com)) is the largest distributor of women's films in the educational market and they are based in New York.

### **Women in Music**

This is a quote from a 2003 interview in NYFA Current with Kristina Kohler, Executive Director of the now defunct Women's Philharmonic that suggests that the **American Symphony Orchestra League** tracks performances by gender. The last sentence of the interview is no longer accurate, but it's not far off. Marin Alsop became the first woman conductor of a major symphony in 2007 when she took the podium at the Baltimore Symphony (overcoming serious resistance from the male musicians).

*"The American Symphony Orchestra League 2002/03 Repertoire Report shows that fewer than 1% of works programmed in the 2002/03 season represent works by women. Of the 484 composers programmed in the 2002/03 season by 104 significant League member orchestras, only 5% were women. Of the 104 world premieres listed in the report, only 10% represent works by women composers.*

*Commissioning of works by women composers has begun to pick up for some composers (i.e. Jennifer Higdon, Chen Yi, Augusta Read Thomas). However, women on the whole still lag far behind: Of the 85 total organizations applying on behalf of a composer to Meet the Composer's (MTC) commissioning grants in 2002, only 19% represented a woman composer. Of the 17 awarded Meet the Composer grants, 24% (4) went to a woman composer. Of the 44 winners of the Broadcast Music, Inc. Student Composer Awards for Classical Music over the past five years (1998-2002), again, only 5% (or two) have been women.*

*There are no women conductors/music directors employed by the largest 25 North American symphonies (according to budget size of orchestra), and women represent only 11% of all conducting positions in the nation."*

**International Alliance of Women in Music** - <http://www.iawm.org/> This is a global network of women and men working to increase and enhance musical activities and opportunities and to promote all aspects of the music of women. They have a great website with lots of resources.

**Women in Music National Network** - <http://www.womeninmusic.com/> Women in Music National Network is a non-profit membership organization designed to promote the recognition of women in music through services, education and networking resources. They also run a job bank.

**Women in Music** - <http://www.womeninmusic.org> - This is another networking organization of women in music.

**Women's Philharmonic Advocacy** - <http://www.rebeccaclarke.org/wophil/> - This is a non-profit that is preserving the 24 year legacy of the Women's Philharmonic and seems to be doing other work related to the status and history of women composers.

## **Women in Dance**

**Quote from 2001 Study:** Dance Theatre Workshop notes that based on Apollinaire Scherr's November 4, 2001 New York Times article "Making a Career With One Eye on a Gender Gap": In 1976 Wendy Perron and Stephanie Woodard found that while women constituted the majority of choreographers, dancers administrators, teachers and students, men received a larger proportion of prizes and opportunities and that a quarter century later, these findings are still true. In 2000, of 18 modern-dance choreographers who received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, 13 were men. The men received a total of \$200,000, with a typical grant of \$10,000; the women received a total of \$45,000, with a typical grant of \$5,000."

Dance, USA. <http://www.danceusa.org/> is the national alliance of dance companies and they may have some information on women in dance.

### **Women in Visual Arts**

**National Museum of Women in the Arts** - [www.nmwa.org](http://www.nmwa.org) This is a wonderful museum in Washington, DC with a beautiful building and fantastic online resources. They have developed Clara®, a unique interactive database containing authoritative information on 18,000 women visual artists of all time periods and nationalities. The information in Clara® is drawn from the materials in NMWA's extensive [Archives on Women Artists](#). They have received funding to do this research over a period of several years from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (<http://www.ims.gov/>), a grant-making federal agency supporting museums and libraries of all types.

**Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum** - <http://www.brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa/> - The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art is an exhibition and education facility dedicated to feminist art - its past, present, and future. It is the permanent home of Judy Chicago's iconic work, "The Dinner Party."

**Women's Caucus for Art** - <http://www.nationalwca.org/> - This is a national organization of women artists with chapters all over the country - (see the list of chapters at <http://www.nationalwca.org/chapters/chapters.html>) They have a newsletter and hold conferences and networking events. They sell books on their website about the history of their organization and their frustration with mainstream arts organizations.

**Feminist Arts Project** - <http://feministartproject.rutgers.edu/> - Based at Rutgers, The Feminist Art Project is a collaborative national initiative celebrating the Feminist Art Movement and the aesthetic, intellectual and political impact of women on the visual arts, art history, and art practice, past and present. They do educational events and have an online calendar. They have a list of regional coordinators at: <http://feministartproject.rutgers.edu/regional/>

There are two other women's museums, but they are museums that focus more on women's history than on women's art - the **Dallas Women's Museum** (<http://www.thewomensmuseum.org/>) and the **International Museum of Women** ([www.imow.org](http://www.imow.org)) which is an online "virtual museum" based here in San Francisco.

**Friends of Lulu** - <http://friendsoflulu.wordpress.com/> This is a networking group of women cartoonists and graphic novelists. There are only a handful of syndicated women cartoonists. This group does educational activities and has an awards program. One of their founders was Trina Robbins, who has published books on the history of women in comics.

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This list was prepared by Martha Richards, Executive Director, WomenArts 2009  
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