



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HUNDREDS TO GATHER ON BROOKLYN STOOPS  
FOR *BETWEEN THE DOOR AND THE STREET*,  
FIRST NEW YORK PROJECT BY RENOWNED ARTIST SUZANNE LACY**

*Participatory artwork will explore contemporary gender politics*

*Presented by Creative Time and the Brooklyn Museum's  
Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art*

In the late afternoon–early evening of **October 19, 2013**, hundreds of women will gather on the stoops and entry courtyards of **Park Place between Vanderbilt and Underhill Avenues, in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn**. There, they will explore some of the most compelling and provocative issues facing women today. The performance—unscripted yet meticulously composed—is the central component of *Between the Door and the Street*, a major work, and the first in New York City, by internationally celebrated artist Suzanne Lacy, presented by Creative Time and the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum. The public is encouraged to come to this tree-lined street and wander freely among the different groups to listen, observe, and form their own opinions, perhaps shaping a new understanding of what feminism means to different individuals in today's world.

*Between the Door and the Street* is presented during the era of the so-called “third wave” of feminism, and in the context of the ongoing worldwide struggle to achieve equality for women. In the United States, for example, despite major social and legislative progress, women still make 77 cents for every dollar earned by men in equivalent jobs; men still hold the vast majority of leadership positions in both government and industry; women's control over their own bodies is subject to legislation, some of it mandating invasive procedures; and one in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. In many areas of the world, women cannot appear in public without subjecting themselves to the potential for violence.



To create this multi-faceted project, Lacy—who is perhaps the most important socially engaged artist working today—spent six months in conversation with a multi-racial, multi-generational, group of women, at once responding to the criticism of feminism as exclusionary and honing her awareness of the multitude of issues that affect women of all backgrounds. She then worked closely with a core group of advisers, ranging from prominent feminists to a theologian, a doctor, a labor activist, an immigration lawyer, and many others, to develop the form and specific content of the project. She considers this inclusive process to be an integral part of the artwork itself. As Creative Time Chief Curator Nato Thompson has said, “Suzanne joins an artistic sensibility with a collaborative methodology. Working closely with an expansive network of brilliant New York City women on *Between the Door and the Street*, she has created a truly compelling work of public dialogue.”

Creative Time President and Artistic Director Anne Pasternak adds, “Suzanne Lacy creates great art that can also move the needle of social justice. Creative Time, which is committed to

advancing the role of artists in public life, is thrilled to be working with Suzanne on *Between the Door and the Street* and with the Brooklyn Museum's Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art to bring this work to a broad public."

Brooklyn Museum Director Arnold Lehman states, "This landmark project by visionary artist Suzanne Lacy will reach our community and engage our neighbors in an exciting and important discourse focusing on some of the most important issues confronting women today. The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art is delighted to partner with Creative Time in presenting *Between the Door and the Street*."

### **The Project**

Each of the Park Place stoops will be occupied by a group of three-to-seven people, most of them brought together by one of dozens of New York City-based activist organizations solicited for this purpose. As each group will discuss a unique question, *Between the Door and the Street* will encompass a highly diverse array of issues, including both those that are routinely associated with women, such as reproductive rights, and others—like global economics, poverty, and immigration—that are not, but that nonetheless have a deep and particular impact on women. Participants in the conversations will cross lines of race, generation, socioeconomic background, and gender.

The New York City stoop is an apt site for these discussions. It is not only an iconic symbol of neighborly conversation, but is also the space between private and public—providing the literal transition from the door to the street. Indeed, the dynamic interchange between private and public life is one of the major contributions made by women to equity movements worldwide, from the suffragettes and their forebears, who advocated for women to leave their homes and participate in public life, to current global activists for gender justice, who address issues like violence, poverty, and economics.

### **At the Brooklyn Museum**

On October 12, at 2:00 PM, Suzanne Lacy, Nato Thompson, and Sackler Center Curator Catherine J. Morris will speak at the Museum, where they will discuss the project and the process behind it.

In addition, the artist will pose a series of questions to the Brooklyn community at large through an architectural intervention on the Museum's own front stoop. Through these prompts, Lacy will literally and metaphorically wrap the stoop in feminist discourse.

### **Project Support**

Lead project support for *Between the Door and the Street* is provided by the Elizabeth A. Sackler Foundation, Stephanie Ingrassia, Katie Michel, Barbara Nessim, Mary Jo and Ted Shen, Ellen Taubman, Ippolita Rostagno, Carol Goldberg, Diana Wege Sherogan, Annette Blum, Judy Cox, Louise Eastman, Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, Toby Devan Lewis, Brooke Garber Neidich, Pamela Roland, Martine Trink Rubenstein, Victoria E. Schonfeld, Elizabeth Smith, Frederieke Taylor, Barbara Tober, Donna Harkavy, Joyce Pomeroy Schwartz, Claudia Baez, Riva Blumenfeld, and Margaret Sullivan. List in formation.

### **Suzanne Lacy**

Los Angeles-based artist Suzanne Lacy is internationally renowned as a pioneer in the field of socially engaged and public art. Lacy's installations, videos, and performances deal with such critical issues as sexual violence, rural and urban poverty, incarceration, gender identity, labor, and aging. Working collaboratively, and in the model of a community organizer, Lacy has realized

large-scale projects in London, Oakland, Los Angeles, Charleston, SC, and the Kentucky Mountains. She has won fellowships from numerous foundations, including the National Endowment for the Arts and Rockefeller Foundation, and her work has been exhibited and collected by national and international institutions.

*Between the Door and the Street* builds on Lacy's rich body of work devoted to issues of feminism. Examples of this include *The Oakland Projects*, performed in Oakland, California, between 1991 and 2000; *The Tattooed Skeleton*, at the Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid, in 2010; *Silver Action*, presented at Tate Modern, London, earlier this year; and *Cleaning Conditions*, part of the *Do It* exhibition at the Manchester Art Gallery, in England, in summer 2013.

Lacy is also known for her writing. In 2010, Duke University Press published a collection of her essays, titled *Leaving Art: Writings on Performance, Politics, and Publics, 1974–2007*. She also edited the influential book *Mapping the Terrain: New Genre Public Art*, published in 1995 by Bay Press. Lacy has held various influential positions throughout her career, including co-founder of the Women's Building in Los Angeles, one of the first women-owned community centers, and co-founder of the Visual and Public Art Institute at California State University at Monterey Bay. She is currently the founding Chair of MFA in Public Practice at Otis College of Art and Design, in Los Angeles.

#### **About the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum**

The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum is an exhibition and education environment dedicated to feminist art—its past, present, and future. Among the most ambitious, influential, and enduring artistic movements to emerge in the late twentieth century, feminist art has played a leading role in the art world over the last forty years. Dramatically expanding the definition of art to be more inclusive in all areas, from subject matter to media, feminist art reintroduced the articulation of socially relevant issues after an era of aesthetic "formalism," while pioneering the use of performance and audiovisual media within a fine art idiom. The Center's mission is to raise awareness of feminism's cultural contributions, to educate new generations about the meaning of feminist art, to maintain a dynamic and welcoming learning environment, and to present feminism in an approachable and relevant way. The Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art was established through the generosity of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Foundation.

#### **About Creative Time**

Since its founding in 1974, Creative Time has worked with thousands of artists to realize hundreds of groundbreaking art projects that have transformed public spaces both famous and less well known. These have ignited the public's imagination, explored ideas that shape society, and engaged millions of people around the globe. A nonprofit organization, Creative Time bases its work on the belief that artists—and their ideas—matter, and should play a major role in shaping public life, that public spaces are meant for creativity and free expression, and that artists need opportunities to innovate, expand their practices, and connect to the important issues of our day.

A vanguard presenter of public art in New York, Creative Time is today the only public arts organization with programs that have reached from New York to New Orleans, Haiti to Hanoi, Dubai to Denver, and now to outer space.

###

#### **Media Contacts**

Lucy O'Brien / [lucyo@creativetime.org](mailto:lucyo@creativetime.org) / 212-206-6674, ext. 206

Sally Williams / [sally.williams@brooklynmuseum.org](mailto:sally.williams@brooklynmuseum.org) / 718-501-6330