Why Art Matters: The Intersection of Art and Activism

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The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
Why Art Matters: The Internship
Why Art Matters: The Artist
Why Art Matters: 
The Status of Women Artists

- 51% of artists today are women
- BUT Only 28% of solo exhibitions in selected museums showed the work of women artists throughout the 2000s.
- Only 27 women are represented in current edition of H.W. Janson’s survey, History of Art.
- From 16–19th centuries, women were barred from studying the nude model, which formed the basis for academic training and representation.
- Although women earn half of the MFAs granted in the US, only a quarter of solo exhibitions in NYC feature women artists.

Statistics provided by the National Museum of Women and Art
Why Art Matters: The Feminist Art Movement

Do women have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum?

Less than 3% of the artists in the Modern Art sections are women, but 83% of the nudes are female.

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Why Art Matters: The Problem With “Great Artists”
Why (Women’s) Art Matters: The “Big Picture”, Street Art and the Importance of Narratives
Why Art Matters: Current Day Examples of Art in/as Activism
Why Art Matters: The Social Action Project
Lessons I Learned About Social Justice-Based Women’s Leadership

- 1) “Oh cool... what does IWL mean again?”: **Be prepared to explain yourself over and over again.**
- 2) Technical glitches: **Be prepared to make mistakes, vow to never make them again, and then make them again.**
- 3) “When you enter a situation in which you immediately want to run away, do it. That is your fear talking. When you enter a situation in which you can sense that something is wrong and not right, then something actually isn’t right.” – Courtney Turner, IWL Alumna: **Don’t sell yourself short because of fear, but find your place.**
Works Cited:

- !WOMEN ART REVOLUTION, Lynn Hershman, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgHrooElF2M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgHrooElF2M)