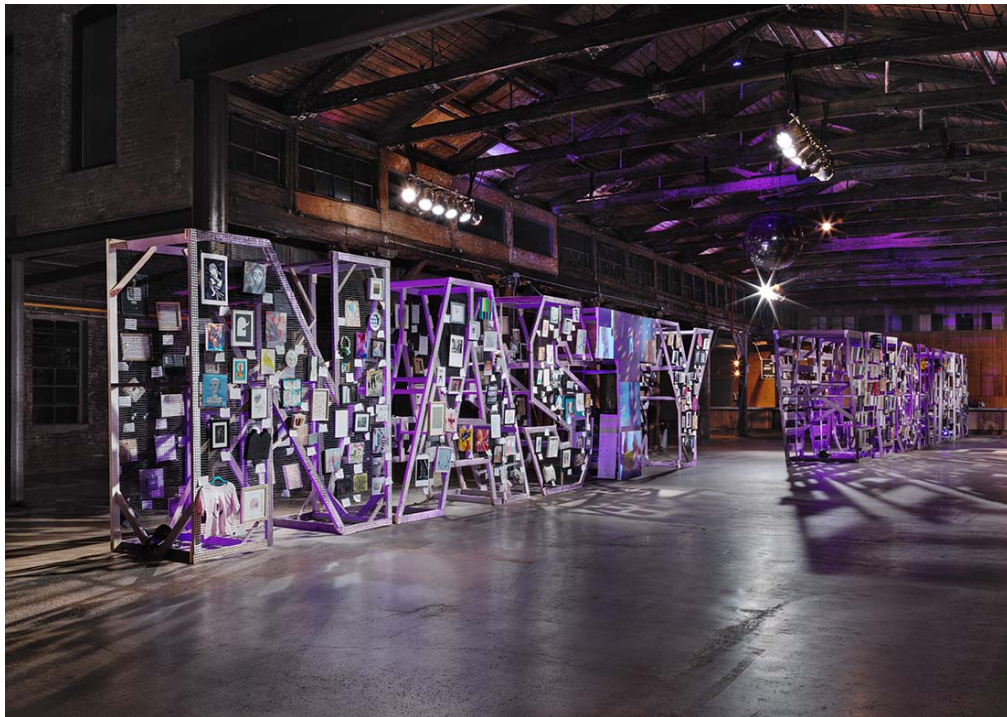


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## Knockdown Center's NASTY WOMEN Exhibition and STAY NASTY Program Series Raises Over \$50,000 for Reproductive Justice and Community Health Organizations

Featuring Nearly 600 Artists and Over 70 Musicians  
and Performers



NASTY WOMEN Exhibition, Installation at Knockdown Center. Photo by EPW Studios/Maris Hutchinson, 2017.

*NASTY WOMEN* Exhibition opened at Knockdown Center on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017, with nearly 600 participating artists who submitted their work to be sold in support of Planned Parenthood. Over the course of four days of exhibition and programming, Knockdown Center welcomed over 4,600 people through its doors, selling every submitted artwork and raising a

total of \$42,325 for Planned Parenthood. Artworks were priced at \$100 or less to encourage first-time collectors and seasoned patrons of the arts alike to purchase work.

*NASTY WOMEN* Exhibition Co-Organizers Jessamyn Fiore and Roxanne Jackson said of the tremendous effort and success of the exhibition, “We were thrilled by the overwhelming response of women artists, who were spurred to action and joined us in this protest of the threats to women’s rights by the incoming administration. This exhibition is an action of solidarity and presence, a statement of resistance.”

Building upon its history and mission as a multi-disciplinary space for collaboration, Knockdown Center presented *STAY NASTY* alongside the exhibition, a four-day program comprising installation, screenings, performances, workshops, comedy, music and more, inviting artists and activists across disciplines to support organizations working towards reproductive justice and community health initiatives.

Evening programs could be experienced through a \$20 all-access pass that allowed visitors to explore Knockdown Center’s 50,000 square foot space throughout the evening for multiple music shows and events, with %100 of the proceeds from ticket sales benefitting Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, the New York Immigration Coalition, Immigrant Defense Fund, and SisterSong. An additional \$8,020 dollars were raised to support these organizations, making the grand total of proceeds from the fundraiser \$50,345.

Knockdown Center Co-Director Michael Merck said, “Knockdown Center is thrilled and honored to have partnered with the Nasty Women organizers to amplify the voices of hundreds of women artists, musicians, performers, activists and organizers for this cause. *NASTY WOMEN* Exhibition and the *STAY NASTY* four-day series of programs serve as an example of how art can provide a platform for resistance and social change. The event depended upon the organizing power, experience, and knowledge of artists and activists who have been on the ground in the struggle for human rights long before the election, and who will continue to fight against discrimination and the ongoing battle for women’s autonomy.”

Saturday’s free daytime program informed visitors on reproductive justice, immigrants’ rights, and community health initiatives with the participation of national and local organizations such as Planned Parenthood, Lady Parts Justice, National Women’s Liberation, Tiny House Plan, Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, New York Immigration Coalition, Immigrant Defense Fund, and non/studio. Newark Print Shop lead sign-making and screen printing workshops to produce materials for the upcoming Women’s March in New York City and Washington D.C. Tom Tom Magazine’s Oral History of Female Drummers project provided ten minutes sets of raucous and unapologetic drumming across the building, with a roster of female drummers performing several times throughout the day. Popular all-girl teen-rock band Harsh Crowd closed the day of programing with a special performance, with lead singer Willow Bennison starting the set with a speech that emphasized the importance of equal rights and opportunities for women in the arts and described their role as Ambassadors for the Women’s March on Washington.

Panels and keynote speakers included a list of prominent artists and activists such as poet and performance artist Pamela Sneed, performance artist Ayana Evans, art dealer and activist Catinca Tabacaru, and Discwoman Co-Founder Frankie Decaiza Hutchinson. Select artists, poets, activists, and organizers were also invited to read contemporary responses to Zoe Leonard's 1992 text "I want a president," coordinated in partnership with High Line Art who had staged a previous reading of responses in November of this year. Readers included social practice artist Sol Aramendi with collaborators Albina Mateo and Irwin Sanchez reading in Spanish and Nahuatl, respectively, poet and activist Shannon Matesky, author Mira Nair, cultural producer Diya Vij, and interdisciplinary artist and poet J. Soto, amongst others.

An impressive line-up of female and gender non-conforming DJs played throughout the weekend, including BEARCAT, Belinda Becker, Maria Chavez, DJ abyss x, Lauren Flax, and Psychic TV's Genesis P-Orridge with Edley ODowd. Other participating musicians and performers included Aurora Halal, Collapsing Scenery, Celestial Trax, FlucT, Bonnie Baxter and Hisham Bharoocha of Kill Altars, Deli Girls, Machine Girl, and Emily Wells, among others. Comedian and artist Lorelei Ramirez hosted an evening of female comics, including Ana Fabrega, Jen Goma, Patti Harrison, Amy Zimmer, Nicole Silverberg, and Marcia Belsky.

The event was made possible through numerous collaborations and partnerships, including line-ups organized by AdHoc Presents, LPR Presents (ROUSE Charity Series), HD, Solidarity in Action (RESONATE), Julia Sinelkova (CHASM), Noise Love, Tom Tom Magazine, and events coordinated by non/studio, Ventiko, and Christen Clifford, among others. BUST Magazine served as a media sponsor.

Images of the event can be seen [here](#).

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