

Letter to the Editor

For Immediate Release:

Jane Doe

Lady Parts, Lady Arts

September 1–September 2, 2017*

*One night only

Every Gallery is pleased to present a show of all-women art by the Earth-based artist Jane Doe. *Lady Parts, Lady Arts* is Ms. Doe's first solo exhibition.

As a woman, Jane Doe is primarily and also exclusively shown in all-women exhibitions. It was our hope that Doe would present a body of work that could easily be broken down into the subject matter of her lady parts and that the color pink, the symbolism of flowers, and stereotyped notions of the domestic could be called upon as an angle of interpretation, no matter what type of work she decided to present. As luck would have it, it turns out that when cordoned off, it becomes exponentially easier to interpret her work through whichever lens we choose.

All the works in the exhibition are accumulations of female aesthetics and a feminine personal history that we indicate we take seriously by saying they are also socio-political. Born on June 4th, 1919, Doe was already an applauded artist by the age of 25, but her child-rearing years were waning. After being denied a show at the National Gallery, she left the art world to bear three children and toiled alone in her hobby room. At the age of 80, she was able to secure a space in a group exhibition at a highly prominent gallery looking to congratulate itself for seeming modern and progressive. This exhibition deftly highlighted her vagina and the vaginas of the other artists as the main concept of the art on view. The exhibition catapulted her career by contributing to her second and third group shows with all-women artists. Her shows have been hailed as “so feminine” and “filled with raw emotion,” an apt description of how we expect to see—and therefore how we see—the art of all women.

After years of relative obscurity, and as Ms. Doe nears the ripe old age of 100, we can stand back and toast ourselves for the progress we have made as a gallery. Having ignored Doe's work for the most productive years of her life, we now present it, wholly devoid of its original historical context, allowing space for less biased and more nuanced associations.

This exhibition is one in a series that Every Gallery is hosting with the intention of illuminating the narrative of female identity through all-female shows. We pride ourselves as being among the first to discover that women too provide an important service and point of view to the greater art world. This show will hold a space somewhere between the male gaze and gender-inclusivity in our continued presentations of female-themed exhibitions.

Jane Doe has been the object of numerous all-female exhibitions, with more, undoubtedly, upcoming.