

# **RECENT NEWS**

Fans Call for Statue in Honor of Beloved Owl Flaco

A Look Back at the Life of Fashion Icon Iris Apfel

7 Artists to Watch at Frieze LA

Elton John Sales of Art and Memorabilia Bring in \$20.5 Million

The Met's Harlem Renaissance Show Is Outstanding

# MONTHLY ARCHIVE

March 2024 (3) February 2024 (19) January 2024 (22) December 2023 (18) November 2023 (19) October 2023 (23) September 2023 (23) August 2023 (21) July 2023 (18) June 2023 (21)

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MUSEUM | FEBRUARY 27, 2019 | CHANDRA NOYES

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# Laurie Simmons' Big Career Photographing Little Things



© LAURIE SIMMONS, COURTESY THE ARTIST AND SALON 94 Laurie Simmons, *Yellow Living Room*, 1982

Opening this week at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago is the first major survey of acclaimed photographer Laurie Simmons. Laurie Simmons: Big *Camera/Little Camera* encompasses four decades of her work, including film and sculpture, in addition to her photographs. Known for her close-up images of the world of dolls, Simmons has long used her lens to critique gender roles and idealized visions of American prosperity and domesticity. By making small objects the central focus of her works, Simmons manipulates our sense of scale and of what is important and worthy of artistic attention. In this way, Simmons makes the personal, the small, and the intimate, political objects,

bringing a feminist message to her domestic scenes.

Simmons became interested in photography as a child, and after art school

worked briefly as a photographer for a dollhouse miniature company. This

experience, as well as purchasing a collection of old toys, would shape her

influence our lives. Her Walking and Lying Objects (1987-91) series brought

career. By creating intimate vignettes for these objects and combining

them with other props, Simmons used the toys she recognized from

childhood to explore themes of gender stereotypes and how images

inanimate objects to life via a pair of slender, feminine legs, drawing a

comparison to how the female body is objectified in the media.



# **MOST READ**



The History of the Heart Shape



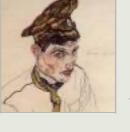
Rosa de la Cruz, Star of the Miami Art Scene, Dies at 81



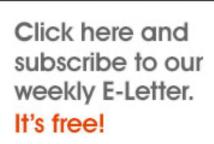
The Met's Harlem Renaissance Show Is Outstanding



Elton John Sales of Art and Memorabilia Bring in \$20.5 Million



Manhattan DA Seeks Return of Schiele Work from Art Institute of Chicago





# **FEATURES**



The Monstrous Feminine in Flora Yukhnovich's Luscious Canvases at the Ashmolean

© LAURIE SIMMONS, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND SALON 94 Laurie Simmons, *Walking House*, 1989



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Exploring the Meaning of the Archive for Marco Almaviva



Marco Almaviva and the Pursuit of Innovation After Spatialism



SCAD Unveils Promenade de Sculptures in Provence



SCAD Museum of Art Celebrating 10th Anniversary



© LAURIE SIMMONS, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND SALON 94

Laurie Simmons, Café of the Inner Mind: Gold Café, 1994

At first, it may be hard to imagine 40 years worth of photographs of dolls

remarkably varied, featuring a wide cast of characters, and eliciting a range

of emotions, from the nostalgic to the humorous, and the sad. Simmons'

props, many of which are on display in this exhibition, have grown just as

she has as an artist. Ventriloquist dummies feature in her photos and the

film *The Music of Regret* (2006, 45 min), which stars Meryl Streep. Recently

Simmons incorporated high-end Japanese sex dolls for the series *The Love* 

as being very interesting or ground-breaking, but Simmons' images are

© LAURIE SIMMONS, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND

Simmons has been a major voice in contemporary art photography, and continues to be influential. She continues to explore ideas surrounding gender, including her most recent work for the series *Some New* (2018). Using makeup and costumes, Simmons addresses the way imagemaking is not limited to photographers but is something we as individuals engage in every day as we shape our appearances.

Accompanying the exhibition is a full calendar of film viewings, tours, and aritst talks, including Simmons in conversation with her daughter, writer and activist Cyrus Dunham.

SALON 94 Laurie Simmons, *Some New: Grace (Orange)*, 2018

*Laurie Simmons: Big Camera/Little Camera* is on view through May 5, 2019.

## FIND OUT MORE

*Doll* (2009-11).

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

*Read more stories from Chandra Noyes* 

Chandra Noyes is the former Managing Editor for Art & Object.

# TAGS

Laurie Simmons MCA Chicago photography film

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# LATEST NEWS



Fans Call for Statue in Honor of Beloved Owl Flaco

Flaco, who escaped the Central Park Zoo in 2023, and died on February 23, spent...



The Lush Solace of Gustav Klimt's Landscapes

At the Neue Galerie, Klimt's pastoral scenes exude the same life as his...



A Look Back at the Life of Fashion Icon Iris Apfel

When fashion icon Iris Apfel died at 102, she left a legacy of artful living.



#### 7 Artists to Watch at Frieze LA

Here are seven artists to watch at Frieze LA, 2024.



#### Elton John Sales of Art and Memorabilia Bring in \$20.5 Million

Elton John said goodby to his Atlanta home through a series of eight sales.

## ANCIENT ART



The Metropolitan Museum to Return Cambodian Artifacts Tied to Looting

10 Stunning Prehistoric Sculptures from The Met's Collection

10 Ancient Wonders to Visit This Year



The Golden Ratio Revealed in 7 Masterpieces

'Beyond Bollywood' Brings Together 2000 Years of Dance in Art

Colors as Transgression in the Holi Festival

# DRAWING



Santa Claus Through History: Tracing the Evolution of a Beloved Icon

The Mystical Tradition: Drawings of Memory and Mystery at the Drawing Center

The History of Copying Art: A Learning Tool or a Cheat?

# PAINTING



Mural by Paul Cézanne Discovered in the Artist's Childhood Home

7 Shocking Incidents of Mona Lisa Vandalism & Theft

5 Art Restoration Fails That Will Blow Your Mind

# DESIGN



Restoring The Frick Collection's Historic Fifth Avenue Home

Russian Attack Damages Historic Cathedral in Odesa

The Smiley Face's History: Exploring a Joyful Symbol

#### PHOTOGRAPHY



Christmas Lights: Photographing a Very American Tradition

What You Don't Know About the World's Oldest Photograph

Developing Magic: Unlocking the Secrets of Darkrooms

#### GALLERY



Robert Storr's 'Retinal Hysteria' Responds to Our Cultural Anxiety

On View - Daniel Arsham: 20 Years

Hauser & Wirth Launches Gallery Space for Prints and Editions

FAIR

Home



10 Highlights from Zona Maco in Mexico City

Highlights from The Winter Show 2024

10 Notable Works to See at Art Basel Miami Beach 2023

Features

# LATIN AMERICAN ART



Why the LACMA's "Archive of the World" Catalogue Matters

Neo-Concretism: the short-lived but influential art movement

Pre-Columbian Latin America: The Chavín of Ancient Peru

# CONTEMPORARY ART



Art & Object Marketplace: A New Way to Buy Art Online

The Art of Snow and Ice: Depictions Throughout Art History

10 Standout Works from the 2023 Made in L.A. Biennial

#### WOMEN ARTISTS



10 Fearless Women Artists Throughout History

Georgia O'Keeffe's Early Works Reveal Her Greatness

Why Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair" is a Masterpiece of Realism

Video

News

#### MUSEUM



The Met's Harlem Renaissance Show Is Outstandingly Buoyant

Manhattan DA Seeks Return of Schiele Work from Art Institute of Chicago

Protest Forces The Museum of Modern Art to Shut Down

#### INDIGENOUS ART



History Painting: An Art Genre or the Manipulation of Truth?

9 Indigenous Art Accounts to Follow on Instagram

What's the Deal with Christopher Columbus Monuments?

#### ANTIQUES



How Money Laundering Works In The Art World Creature Comfort: Animal Art in the Home

The Cabinet of Curiosities & Colonialism

#### MODERN ART



Discovering MoMA: 10 Surprising Facts About the Museum of Modern Art

Explore Claude Monet's Iconic Garden at Giverny

The Best Art Museum in Every U.S. State

Elton John Sales of Art

and Memorabilia Bring

Sculptures to the Moon

Painting by The Beatles

Sells for \$1.7 Million at

**Trial Begins in Russian** 

**Billionaire Dmitry** 

**Rybolovlev's Case** 

**Against Sotheby's** 

A Brief History of the

Female Nude: From

Art World

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Willendorf to Kardashian

Remarkable Art Collecting

Families That Shaped the

Q

in \$20.5 Million

Jeff Koons Sends

and More News

RENAISSANCE

Auction

**AUCTION** 

# LGBTQ ARTISTS



Preview Laurence Philomene's Masterful Monograph: "Puberty"

Eisenman's Paintings Back in NYC Art Scene at Hauser & Wirth

6 Art World Events for Pride 2022

#### **BLACK ARTISTS**



Nina Simone's Childhood Home Gains Support to Become a Historic Site

Hilton Als: The Pulitzer Winning Critic Discusses the Art of Curating

12 African American Artists You Should Know More About

#### SCULPTURE



Three Books About Art for Your Summer Reading List

The 7 Wonders of the Ancient World Revealed

Wangechi Mutu's Magically Intertwined World



Events

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