

ART AS ACTION

FILM DESCRIPTION

-Page 1 of 5-



Art As Action celebrates the contribution that some of the lesser known women artists made to abstract expressionism in New York City in the 1940's and 1950's. The film explores this period and the lives of the women through the story of the filmmaker's mother, Gloria Jerome Torrice. Talented and rebellious, Gloria and a group of women artists rented a cold water loft together in NYC and devoted themselves to creating new artwork that challenged conventions in visual arts, gender roles, politics and society.

While the stories of their male colleagues, Pollock, De Kooning, Rothko and Motherwell, are by now well known, the tales of these women and their role and contribution to this important historical moment are for the most part untold.

Also interwoven into the film are Gloria's and other women action painters' art work, rare archival photographs, including the photographs of Fred McDarragh of the Village Voice, who documented the art scene at this time.

What People are Saying:

Women artists, the unsung heroines of Abstract Expressionism left an indelible mark in mid-20th century Manhattan, yet their oeuvre is relatively unknown. Although their contemporaries, Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning may be more familiar names, Art as Action aims to give women artists their due and fills a critical gap in the history of American Art's seminal movement."

-Polly Guerin
Author and Journalist
Pollytalk.com

"At the end, facing an open canvas with all that has gone before destroyed, Art as Action reflects the modern crisis. It is a stunning expression of the world women artists were swept into and found their voices within. Torrice documents the tragedy of modernism and its transformation through her mother's story."

-Peter Block
Author and Activist
peterblock.com

ART AS ACTION

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

-Page 2 of 5-



Gloria Jerome Torrice is the daughter of Italian immigrants and was born in 1924 in Jersey City, NJ. She is a painter and fabric artist. Gloria began studying painting in high school and went on to study with Hans Hoffman, Stuart Davis, and Stanley Hayter. She was a member of the Artists' Club and part of the New York scene of Abstract Expressionism.



Ruth Fortel was born May 2, 1923 in Eastchester, NY. After completing her WWII military service with the newly formed women's division of the U.S. Marine Corps, she moved to New York City to study painting and was a member of the Area Gallery Coop on 10th street for nearly 7 years.



Claire Mahl Moore was born in New York City in 1917. She remembers knowing she was an artist even before starting school. Like her contemporary Jackson Pollock, Claire Mahl Moore studied with Thomas Hart Benton at the Art Students League and, along with Lee Krasner she was a student at the National Academy of Design.



Anita Berger died at the early age of 26. At this time we have been unable to find any information about Anita and her background. According to Gloria Jerome Torrice, She was a close friend of Leo Castelli who admired her work. If you have any information about her, please contact us.

ART AS ACTION

RESOURCES

-Page 3 of 5-



BOOKS

Bard, Joellen. **Tenth Street Days: the Co-ops of the 50's**. The galleries, Tanager, Hansa, James, Camino, March, Brata, Phoenix, Area : an artist-initiated exhibition, works from 1952-1962. New York: Education, Art & Service, inc., 1977.

Finnegan, Sharyn. "Claire Moore." *Woman's Art Journal*, 2, no. 1 (1981): 53-56.

Herskovic, Marika . **New York school: abstract expressionists: Artists Choice by Artists: a Complete Documentation of the New York Painting and Sculpture annuals, 1951-1967**. Franklin Lakes, N.J: New York School Press, 2000.

Kostelanetz, Richard. **Soho: the Rise and Fall of an Artists' Colony**. New York: Routledge, 2003.

Lee, Pamela M., and Gordon Matta-Clark. **Object to be Destroyed: The work of Gordon Matta-Clark**. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2000.

McDarrah, Fred W. **The Artist's World in Pictures**. New York, NY: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc, 1961.

New York Times, "'How an Urban Artists' Colony Was Inadvertently Created,'" June 8, 2003. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/08/realestate/how-an-urban-artists-colony-was-inadvertently-created.html>. February 5, 2013 download.

EXHIBITIONS

Abstract Strength: Mary Abbott, Perle Fine, Judith Godwin, Gertrude Greene, and Charlotte Park. Curated by Peters, Lisa N. New York, NY: Spanierman Modern, 2012.

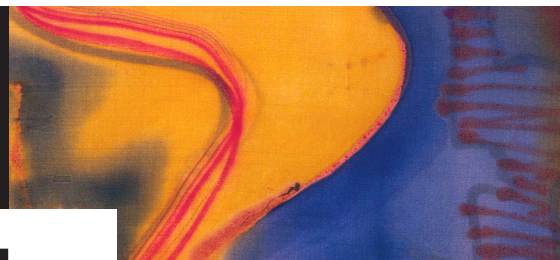
Claire Moore. June Kelly Gallery Contemporary Fine Art - Paintings, Sculpture, Works on Paper, Photography. <http://www.junekellygallery.com/artists/moore.htm>. February 8, 2013 download.

"Artists-Tenants Association." **Robert F. Wagner Documents Collection**. Julius CC Edelstein (Wagner Staff) Series. Box#060295, Folder #9,

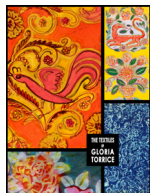
ART AS ACTION

PURCHASE THE FILM AND POSTER

-Page 4 of 5-



Limited-edition posters signed by Gloria Jerome-Torrice. Posters are 18" x 24", giclee printed on high quality paper. \$65.00 Each.



A



B



C

DVD Pricing

Museums, Festivals, and Educational Institutions: \$150.00

Individuals: \$25.00

Non-Profit Organizations \$49.00

Poster A Quantity _____ Subtotal _____

Poster B Quantity _____ Shipping \$3.00

Poster C Quantity _____ Total _____

DVD Quantity _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS

Name _____

Organization _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please make check payable to: Torrice Media. Send order form and check to the following address:

Torrice Media
3420 Cornell Place
Cincinnati, OH 45220

torricemedia@gmail.com

513.751.7050

torricemedia.com

ART AS ACTION

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

-Page 5 of 5-



Andrea Torrice

Documentary Filmmaker

www.torricemedia.com



Reviewers' Comments about films by Andrea Torrice

"Torrice has the keen ability of humanizing complex policy issues while still engaging the viewer with the fine craft of documentary filmmaking."

New Jersey Star Ledger

"Torrice seeks out voices that might not otherwise be heard, and lets them speak. She offers a satisfying change from the watered down pabulum..."

The San Francisco Chronicle

"Torrice's... (work) often goes where others will not tread. She is not afraid to give us a glimpse from within the eye of the hurricane."

Honolulu Advertiser

Andrea Torrice is an award-winning documentary and public television producer whose work spans a range of contemporary issues.

Her recent national PBS production, **The New Metropolis**, explores the revitalization challenges and opportunities facing America's older, first suburbs. She is also overseeing the related civic engagement dialogues being hosted by PBS affiliated stations and community organizations. Over 120 community dialogs were held around the country.

Some of her other PBS documentaries include, **Rising Waters**, which examines the global warming debate through the personal stories of Pacific Islanders. It was also featured at the 2004 United Nation's Earth Summit, as well as broadcast in 110 countries and on National Geographic TV. She was the segment producer for the National PBS series **Arab American Stories**, which profiles a Jordanian family from Ohio. Some of her other award winning films include: **Bad Chemistry**, which discloses the hazards of low-level chemical exposures on human health; **Large Dams, False Promises**, which investigates the impacts of dam projects in Brazil and China; and **Forsaken Cries: The Story of Rwanda**, which explores the historical factors contributing to the 1994 genocide. Her most recent film, **Art As Action**, tells the story of women abstract expressionist painters through the story of the filmmakers' mother.

Her work has been supported by the Ford, Annie. E. Casey, Sudrna, William Penn, Stephen H. Wilder and other foundations, as well as by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and the Independent Television Service. She is also the recipient of a CPB Gold Award in Community Programming.

Torrice is a frequent guest speaker on the issues related to her films, including global warming, sustainability, and urban revitalization. She is the owner of Torrice Media, and has produced a range of award-winning video programs for museums, universities, educational institutions, municipal governments and nonprofit organizations.

Her career started almost 20 years ago at San Francisco's PBS affiliate, KQED-TV, as a producer for the station's Current and Cultural Affairs departments. Currently she is the owner of Torrice Media which specializes in high impact visual storytelling for a range of multimedia platforms. She currently works in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she lives with her husband and son.