

Iaia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch

NIMBY "NOT IN MY BACK YARD"
2015

PROJECT

From the concept and acronym of "Not In My Back Yard", NIMBY is a project that is focused on life, on work and on the research of twelve women lived between XIX and the beginning of XX century, that fought for the defense of the worthiest human rights.

They were selected by Iaia Filiberti and Debora Hirsch because they were courageous and tireless champions of life. These women fought for the defense of the noblest human rights, affirming non-negotiable values against femicide, environmental devastation, exploitation of child and female labor, religious persecution, warmongering politics, female genital mutilation, marginalization of differently abled individuals, the hell of prisons, and human guinea pigs.

NIMBY is an installation, consisting of a highly impactful and intentionally retro photographs. The photographic installation consists of twelve vintage portraits that the authors have delicately intervened in by making almost imperceptible retouches. The project is completed with a video, visible during the fair through a QR code, that is the result of a web research of International channels, from BBC to Al Jazeera, from Russian Television to CNN, but also of documentaries of authors and little network.

The artwork invites us to read current events through the filter of memory. The deliberate expressive language that goes with each image underlines how these seemingly distant women are still so close. And the battle is not yet over. Elizabeth Fry, Lizzy Lind af Hageby, Rachel Carson, Bertha von Suttner, Irène Némirovsky, Josephine Elizabeth Butler, Susan B. Anthony, Rose Schneiderman, Mary Harris Jones, Frances Power Cobbe, Henrietta Lacks, Hellen Keller are the witnesses of tragedies that after two centuries look at again and their task affirms some not negotiable values against pedophilia, femicide, vivisection and violence on animals, destruction of the environment, exploitation of the child and female labour, religious persecution, warlike politics, emargination of the disabled, the hell of the prison and the human test. The deep feeling, the reflection and maybe the action are a work in progress because, as Charles Péguy said, the work of art is realized by two. NIMBY is composed by a video (visible in Untitled using a QR Code) that is the result of a web research of International channels, from BBC to Al Jazeera, from Russian Television to



CNN, but also of documentaries of authors and little network. All the videos are available on YouTube. The work is presented next to twelve portraits of the activists. The contrast that originated could invite to read the current events through the filter of the memory and the strong responsibility of these women so distant, so close.

Tragedies that still concern us after two centuries.

The strength of Filiberti and Hirsch's work paradoxically lies in its grace and the artists' ability to depict the world's evil with clarity and lucidity. It provokes those who look at it a reflection, and eventually action. As Charles Péguy said, a work of art is always made by two, the artist and the viewer.

NiMBY Intallation in Il Chiostro Gallery, Saronno, 2015





Gender in Art, MOCAK ,Contemporary Art Museum, Krakow, Poland "HELA" installation of Iaia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch, 2015

CURRICULUM

List of the principal exhibitions of Iaia Filiberti and Debora Hirsch together:

Gender in Art, MOCAK, Contemporary Art Museum of Krakow, Poland; Ida e Volta, MUBE, San Paolo; Framed, Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, Miami; Framed libro, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino; 100 round trips to Hollywood, Spazio Oberdan, Milano; Framed, VM21 Arte Contemporanea, Roma; Framed, Room Gallery, Milano; MAP, MAGA, Gallarate; MAP, EX3, Firenze; Invisibilia, GAMC Palazzo Forti, Verona.



Iaia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch

Ritratto di Bertha von Suttner

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Bertha von Suttner (Prague, Austrian Empire, 1843 – Vienna, Austria-Hungary, 1914) Austrian writer and activist Bertha von Suttner became a leading figure in peace activism at the turn of the twentieth century with the publication of her anti-war novel, *Ground arms!* She continued her efforts as a public speaker and played a key role in the formation of the first Hague Peace Conference and the Nobel Peace Prize. For her efforts in the peace movement, she received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905.

TESTI

"Ground arms!"



Laia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch

Ritratto di Rachel Carson

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Rachel Carson (Springdale, Pennsylvania, US, 1907 - Silver Spring, Maryland, US, 1964)

Environmentalism, writer, Carson stood behind her warnings of the consequences of indiscriminate pesticide use, despite the threat of lawsuits from the chemical industry. Carson died before she could see any substantive results from her work on this issue, but she left behind some of the most influential environmental writing ever published.

TESTI

"What if I had never seen this before? what if I knew I would never see it again?"



Iaia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch

Ritratto di Rose Schneiderman

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Rose Schneiderman (Saven, Poland, 1882 – New York City, New York, US, 1972)
After working as a lining stitcher in a cap factory, she was instrumental in getting women admitted to the United Cloth, Hat, and Cap Makers Union and participated (1905) in a successful strike. Probably the best-known American woman trade unionist, she was elected (1907) vice president of the New York branch of the Women's Trade Union League and was its sole organizer (1917–19) in the Eastern states. She was subsequently elected president (1918) of the New York branch and became (1928) national president of the National Women's Trade Union League.

TESTI

"The worker must have bread, but she must have roses, too".



Iaia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch

Ritratto di Lizzy Lind af Hageby

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Lizzy Lind af Hageby (Sweden, 1878 – London, England, 1963)

Swedish feminist and animal rights advocate. At age 24, she moved to England, where she became one of the country's most prominent anti-vivisection activists. In 1903 she infiltrated the vivisection in University College London of a brown terrier dog she said was dissected while conscious before an audience of medical students, then included a vivid description of it in *The Shambles of Science*. The researcher insisted the dog had been anaesthetized and won a much-publicized libel suit. The ensuing controversy, known as the Brown Dog affair, lasted seven years and famously led to riots in London when 1,000 medical students, angered by the description of their work, clashed with police, suffragettes, and trade unionists.

TESTI

"How long shall these things be?"



Iaia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch

Ritratto di Mary Harris Jones

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Mary Harris Jones (Ireland, 1837 – Ireland, 1930)

In her 60s Mother Jones became an organizer for the United Mine Workers Union. Since judges were reluctant to jail such an elderly woman, her age was an asset to the union movement. As she grew older, her attention focused on securing laws that prohibited child labor. She made speeches and engaged newspaper writers to accompany her to places where children were working in slave-like conditions.

TESTI

"Today the white child is sold for two dollars a week to the manufacturers".



Iaia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch

Ritratto di Irène Némirovsky

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Irène Némirovsky (Kiev, Russian Empire, 1903 - Auschwitz Poland, 1942)
Arrested as a "stateless person of Jewish descent" by French police under the regulations of the German occupation. She was brought to a convoy assembly camp at Pithiviers and on 17 July 1942, together with 928 other Jewish deportees, transported to German concentration camp Auschwitz. She died a month later of typhus. Némirovsky's older daughter, Denise, kept the notebook containing the manuscript for *Suite Française* for fifty years without reading it, thinking it was a journal or diary of her mother's, which would be too painful to read. In the late 1990s, however, she decided to examine the notebook and discovered what it contained. She had it published in France, where it became a bestseller in 2004. It has since been translated into 38 languages and as of 2008 has sold 2.5 million copies.

TESTI

"What is this country doing to me?"



Iaia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch

Ritratto di Josephine Elizabeth Butler

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Josephine Elizabeth Butler (Northumberland, England, 1828 – England, 1906)
Social reformer that campaigned against the sexual exploitation of vulnerable women and children. She was concerned with the welfare of prostitutes and led the long campaign for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts both in Britain and internationally. In 1885 she was drawn into a campaign led by the editor of the Pall Mall Gazette, William Thomas Stead. He had published a series of articles entitled The Maiden Tribute of Modern Babylon exposing the extent of child prostitution in London. As a result of this campaign, the age of consent in the United Kingdom and Ireland was raised from 13 to 16 that same year.

TESTI

“...she said she was never allowed out of that room”.



Iaia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch

Ritratto di Hellen Keller

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Hellen Keller (Tuscumbia, Alabama, US, 1880 - Westport, Connecticut, US, 1968)
Though both blind and deaf, American lecturer and author Helen Keller traveled the world over, fighting for improvement in the education and life of the physically handicapped. Blind and deaf from an undiagnosed illness at the age of two, she was put under the charge of Anne Sullivan, who was her teacher and companion until Sullivan's death in 1936.

TESTI

"It is a terrible thing to see and have no vision".



Laia Filiberti & Debora Hirsch

Ritratto di Henrietta Lacks

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Henrietta Lacks (Roanoke, US, 1920 – Baltimore, US, 1951)

In 1951, Henrietta Lacks was diagnosed with terminal cervical cancer. She was treated at Johns Hopkins University, where a doctor named George Gey snipped cells from her cervix without telling her. Gey discovered that Lacks' cells could not only be kept alive, but would also grow indefinitely. For the past 60 years Lacks' cells have been cultured and used in experiments ranging from determining the long-term effects of radiation to testing the live polio vaccine. Her cells were commercialized and have generated millions of dollars in profit for the medical researchers who patented her tissue. Lacks' family, however, didn't know the cell cultures existed until more than 20 years after her death.

TESTI

"People got rich off my mother without us even knowin about them takin her cells, now we don't get a dime". (Deborah Lacks daughter)



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Ritratto di Elisabeth Fry

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Elisabeth Fry (Norwich, England, 1780 - Ramsgate, England, 1845)
Referred to as 'Angel of prisons', English prison reformer, a Quaker and a Christian philanthropist. Elisabeth Fry's visit to Newgate prison prompted her to work for changing the horrible conditions of women, newborns and children in the cells, including founding a school for imprisoned children. She created an association for the improvement of the female prisoners, that attracted Queen Victoria's interest. She therefore set up a committee to visit prisoners, and then decided to support Fry. The success of her methods in Newgate were applied in many other prisons throughout Europe.

TESTI

"Punishment is not for revenge, but to lessen crime and reform the criminal".



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Ritratto di Frances Power Cobbe

2015

Print on paper, velvet, gold frame, wood panel

50,5 × 35,5 cm

3,6 kg

Note:

Frances Power Cobbe (Dublin, Ireland, 1822 – 1904)

Cobbe was an Irish writer, social reformer, anti-vivisection activist, and leading suffragette. Cobbe published several articles on the legal rights of women in marriage. A pamphlet, *Wife Torture*, which proposed that wife assault should be made grounds for a legal separation, and this influenced the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1878 which gave a wife the right to a separation with maintenance, and with custody of any child under ten years of age.

TESTI

“Wife-beating advances to wife-torture, and usually ends in wife-maiming, wife blinding or wife-murder.”
