

ARTFORUM

TOP TEN

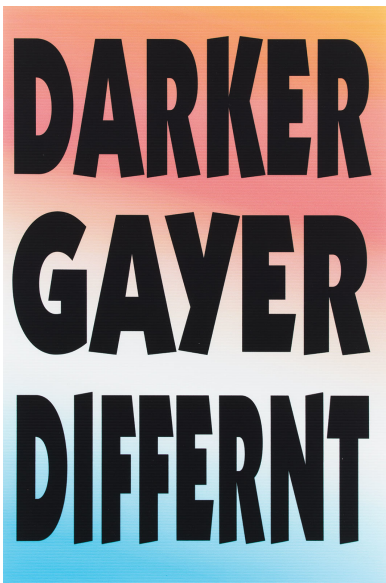
MARILYN MINTER



Marilyn Minter is an artist and activist who lives and works in New York. She has staged solo exhibitions at numerous institutions in the United States and abroad, including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; La Conservera, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Murcia, Spain; the Museum of Contemporary Art in Cleveland; and the Deichtorhallen, Hamburg. She is currently preparing for solo shows at Baldwin Gallery in Aspen and at Lehmann Maupin in Hong Kong.

1. DOWNTOWN FOR DEMOCRACY

After the 2016 US election, I joined Downtown for Democracy, a political action group founded by creative people to transform cultural influence into political power. I serve on the artists' committee—we raise money for progressive causes to combat Trump's dictatorial agenda by selling reasonably priced artist editions. Buy our stuff or volunteer at www.downtown4democracy.org.



Paul Chan, *Darker, Gayer, Differnt*, 2018, ink-jet print, 36 × 24".

2. CORALIE FARGEAT, *REVENGE* (2017)

It could have been another clichéd movie. Instead, a woman director makes a masterpiece by infusing it with her perspective. Fargeat turns the tables on the familiar rape-revenge fantasy—of course, I won't tell you *how*—and it is extremely satisfying. *Revenge* is cathartic and great escapist entertainment. It's also beautifully shot, with jarringly extreme close-ups that ramp up the suspense.



Coralie Fargeat, *Revenge*, 2017, HD video, color, sound, 108 minutes. Jen (Matilda Lutz).

3. **PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND CECILE RICHARDS'S CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY**

Planned Parenthood and its former president, Cecile Richards, who ran the organization from 2006 until April of this year, have been huge inspirations to me. I loved watching Richards's 2015 testimony before Congress when she shut down Utah's unctuous GOP representative Jason Chaffetz. I have been a proud supporter of Planned Parenthood for a very long time. I made a suite of unofficial Planned Parenthood pins—all of the proceeds go directly to the nonprofit. You can buy them through Printed Matter's website.

4. **THE FINNISH GROUP LORDIERS OF ODIN AND A TUBA PLAYER TROLLING THE KKK**

After the election, I was so angry and depressed. But I figured out that the most powerful way to deal with the KKK, fascists, and neo-Nazis is to humiliate them. These hate groups are desperate to be taken seriously, so undercutting them with absurdity and humor seems far more effective than trying to fight them on their terms. Visit YouTube to find footage of the "loldiers" and the tuba player. I find their forms of disruption hilariously compelling.



Member of Loldiers of Odin protesting Finland's immigration policy, Tampere, Finland, January 23, 2016.

5. MY FAVORITE BIOGRAPHIES OF DRUG ADDICTS, ALCOHOLICS, AND SYBARITES (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

Given the times we are in, I sometimes need to escape all the bad news. I have a list of books that I've found absolutely riveting. They give me a reprieve from the chaos and let me connect to someone's story and parse the relationship between addiction and creativity.

Nancy Milford, *Savage Beauty: The Life of Edna St. Vincent Millay* (2001)

James Young, *Nico: The End* (1994)

Carolyn Burke, *Lee Miller: A Life* (2005)

Mark Stevens and Annalyn Swan, *De Kooning: An American Master* (2004)

Marilyn Manson with Neil Strauss, *The Long Hard Road Out of Hell* (1998)

Jean Stein and George Plimpton, *Edie: American Girl* (1982)

Eddie Fisher and David Fisher, *Been There, Done That: An Autobiography* (1999)

Millicent Dillon, *A Little Original Sin: The Life and Work of Jane Bowles* (1980)

Jerry Hopkins and Danny Sugerman, *No One Here Gets Out Alive* (1980)



Cover of Marilyn Manson's *The Long Hard Road Out of Hell* (HarperCollins, 1998). Written with Neil Strauss.

6. NAN GOLDIN VS. OXYCONTIN AND PURDUE PHARMA

And sometimes addiction spurs action. If you've read anything about the opioid epidemic, you immediately see that it could have been totally avoided. In the early 2000s, the US Department of Justice wanted to indict three major executives at Purdue Pharma for hiding information about the drug OxyContin's addictive properties—but certain officials in the DOJ at that time, under George W. Bush's presidency, did not support it. Since debuting her scathing project in the January 2018 issue of this magazine, Nan Goldin has been vocal about holding the Sackler family (major arts patrons who own Purdue Pharma) and their company accountable for distributing their version of synthetic heroin. She is a powerful example of an artist getting political.



Nan Goldin at a press conference for the Comprehensive Addiction Resources Emergency Act, Washington, DC, April 26, 2018. Photo: Clare Carter.

7. KARA WALKER AND JASON MORAN, *THE KATASTWÓF KARAVAN*, 2018

The Katastwóf Karavan combines Kara Walker's brilliant visual work with a cacophonous soundscape by composer and artist Jason Moran. The work merges her signature silhouetted figures with a calliope. Their arresting piece debuted in New Orleans for Prospect.4. Sadly, there is little good video documentation of the work, but do the research—it's worth it.



Kara Walker, *The Katastwóf Karavan*, 2018, mixed media.
Installation view, Algiers Point, New Orleans. From Prospect.4. Photo: J Caldwell.

8. SWING LEFT

A wonderful grassroots organization that is working to take back the House and Senate. Swing Left tells you where the closest swing district is and guides you on how to effect real change. Get involved! Vote in 2018! Democracy depends on it!

9. ARTHUR JAJA, *LOVE IS THE MESSAGE, THE MESSAGE IS DEATH*, 2016

I've looked at a lot of art videos in my life. Arthur Jafa's genius and heartbreaking work is one of the most mesmerizing I've ever seen. I couldn't leave the room until I'd watched it ten times.

10. NANCY SPECTOR AND MAURIZIO CATTELAN'S *AMERICA*, 2016

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum artistic director Nancy Spector is a sly devil. When the Trump White House approached the institution about borrowing Vincent van Gogh's *Landscape with Snow*, 1888, Spector countered by offering a long-term loan of Maurizio Cattelan's 18-karat gold toilet, *America*, 2016. (The functioning sculpture was installed in a Guggenheim bathroom for a year.) Spector knows how to leverage power with wit.