April 11–April 28
Presented by MICA
Opening Reception: April 11, 6–9pm

Maryland Institute College of Art's (MICA) Exhibition Development Seminar (EDS) presents historically hysterical, a show featuring artists who reject the coercive hierarchy of gender roles in order to smash the patriarchy. Created by a class of twelve women curators, the exhibition uses installation, performance, photography, and mixed media fiber works—all created by contemporary women artists—to transform three floors of Baltimore's historic Peale Center.

The show opens with a public reception on Thursday, April 11 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, including a performance by Baltimore feminist hardcore punk band War on Women.
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This link between past and present mirrors current political realities: As a record-breaking 102 women joined the U.S. House of Representatives in the wake of #MeToo and the Brett Kavanaugh hearings, some journalists dubbed 2018 the “Year of the Woman” — a title previously used to describe 1992, the year Anita Hill testified against Clarence Thomas during his Supreme Court confirmation battle. The struggle for the acknowledgment of women's experiences, contributions, and imaginative labor in a male-dominated system seems to echo across decades, forever unresolved.
February 18, 2019
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HISTORICALLY HYSTERICAL: MICA’S EXHIBITION DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR BRINGS ANARCHA-FEMINIST ART TO THE PEALE CENTER
APRIL 11 – 28

BALTIMORE—Maryland Institute College of Art’s (MICA) Exhibition Development Seminar (EDS) presents historically hysterical, a show featuring artists who reject the coercive hierarchy of gender roles in order to smash the patriarchy. Created by a class of twelve women curators, the exhibition uses installation, performance, photography, and mixed media fiber works—all created by contemporary women artists—to transform three floors of Baltimore’s historic Peale Center. The show opens with a public reception on Thursday, April 11 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, including a performance by Baltimore feminist hardcore punk band War on Women.

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suzanna scott | photo courtesy of the artist
The answer, the EDS curators suggest, is anarcha-feminism, an ideology that rejects traditional power relationships and demands equity, horizontality, and free association. The spirit of anarcha-feminism might seem antithetical to the past life of the Peale, which, as the first purpose-built museum in the U.S., once reflected nineteenth-century hierarchical approaches to knowledge and culture. But by inviting women artists to occupy the Peale and excavate, transform, and repurpose its spaces, EDS asks viewers to feel the power of the future, be inspired, and be liberated.

**Historically hysterical** includes:

New York artist **Katie Bell** creates installations of deconstructed and found objects, often working directly on walls and surfaces with materials scavenged on-site.

In her mixed-media fiber works, Brooklyn, New York artist **Tamar Stone** embellishes corsets, dolls’ beds, and other vintage items associated with women using elaborately embroidered text and images.

California-born, Baltimore-based artist **Nakeya Brown** uses found images and objects in staged narrative photographs that explore the complexities of race, beauty politics, and gender.

Baltimore-born MICA photography and design graduate **Amy Helminiak** uses multimedia to meditate on the ambiguity of language and the transformation of culture in the digital age.

Louisiana-based sculptor **Suzanna Scott** creates fiber-based sculptures and installation works rooted in feminist themes and visual metaphors for the body.

Originally from Spain, Chicago-based artist **Verónica Casado Hernandez** uses performance and installation to lacerate history, identity, and politics.

East Baltimore born and based photographer, educator, and freedom fighter **Shan Wallace** uses themes of history, politics, and oppression to challenge existing narratives of black communities.

**War on Women** is a Baltimore-based co-ed feminist hardcore punk band led by singer and activist **Shawna Potter**, who uses her lyrics to address issues like street harassment, reproductive rights, and rape culture.

In addition to works and performances by these artists, the exhibition also features interactive elements, including a communal “hysteria room” in which visitors are encouraged to let loose, embrace the spirit of anarcha-feminism, and respond creatively—or viscerally. The Peale’s permanent historical exhibition on the ground floor will be supplemented with an exhibit resource area, including a library of anarcha-feminist texts selected by Baltimore’s anarchist bookstore, **Red Emma’s**.
About Exhibition Development Seminar
Exhibition Development Seminar (EDS) is a year-long MICA course in which students experience the curatorial process by working collaboratively with the assistance of professional mentors to research, plan, and produce a major exhibition. MICA’s undergraduate Concentration in Curatorial Studies is currently administered by faculty member Jeffry Cudlin.

About The Peale Center
The Peale Center for Baltimore History and Architecture, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is restoring the oldest museum building in the United States in partnership with the City of Baltimore. Through its programs, the Peale Center aims to illuminate authentic stories of Baltimore’s people and places, while reinventing the urban museum in the creative and innovative spirit of its founder, artist Rembrandt Peale.

About Red Emma’s
Named after the influential early 20th century anarchist and advocate for women’s rights, Emma Goldman, Red Emma’s was founded in 2004 as a coffeehouse, restaurant, and bookstore. Started on a horizontal structure, all workers can become co-owners, thus having a vote. Their board takes every decision under consideration, with extensive research to responsibly source sustainable, animal-friendly products.

About MICA
MICA (Maryland Institute College of Art) is home to top-ranked fine arts, design, electronic media, art education, liberal arts, and professional studies degree and non-credit programs. The College’s alumni and programming reach around the globe, even as MICA remains a cultural cornerstone in the Baltimore/Washington region, hosting hundreds of exhibitions and events annually by students, faculty, and other established artists.

Historically Hysterical is made possible in part by support from Friends of EDS.