



PEN + BRUSH
Until it's just about the art

Visual. Literary. Women. The Nation. The World. We See Community and Connection.

"The Arts" have the capacity to inspire, to provoke empathy, and to spark a revolution. We at Pen + Brush have always believed these truths – through more than a century of national and international conflict, and periods of deep social change.

We are currently faced with shifting ideologies that threaten to make conditions for women – and specifically, women in the arts - more difficult than they have been in a decade. In preparation for the challenges we see ahead, whether in the form of funding cuts or the potential for censorship, Pen + Brush is committed to redoubling our efforts to keep the arts accessible and free from actions that limit, restrict or perpetuate the lack of gender equity and diversity for artists and writers.

My friends, we have survived a contentious year of charged and acrimonious dialogue. Targeted were gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity, religion, social policy, political alignment, and physical capabilities. History has taught us that it is a short step from inflammatory rhetoric to positions and actions that minimize, marginalize, and censor.

Pen + Brush, along with our literary and visual artists, our long-time and new supporters, our visitors, and our kindred spirits - of all races, ethnicities, religions, politics, abilities, philosophies, and non-binary gender identification - cannot allow our society to devolve after so many significant, positive steps have been made during our first 122 years. We strongly support a vital phalanx of writers ready to reflect our society, criticize injustice, and celebrate our humanity; visual artists who bring beauty to our lives along with strong social statements in their paintings, sculpture, film and mixed media works.

We therefore pledge, in 2017 and beyond, to promote the special place held by women in the arts to a place of greater recognition in the world of creativity. We will advocate for equality in access to publication, to exhibition and to reviews; and we will demand equity in pay and respect for the contributions of women to the arts. With continued flexibility and perseverance, we look forward to measuring our progress toward the achievement of these goals at our milestone 125th anniversary in 2019.

In the interim, and until there is parity for women in the arts and literature, we ask you to make Pen and Brush one of the 3 top nonprofits you support at this year's end with a gift of \$100 in support of our visual and literary arts programs, creating opportunity and a meaningful platform for female artists and writers.

We in turn will continue mounting thought-provoking exhibitions with works by exciting new and mid-career visual artists; we will host writers in readings, workshops, talkbacks, and salons and will make curator-selected literature available through our e-Book imprint and on-line publications; and we will also renew our efforts to present mission-affirming discourse on the fight for gender parity. Pen + Brush has always offered a safe space for women of all points of view to come together and have an open dialogue, something that is now more critical than ever. Exercise your passion to support gender parity in the arts through a gift* to Pen + Brush's vital mission: for art and literature created by women to be recognized and valued on the basis of its merit – not judged by the gender of its maker.

We truly appreciate your continued friendship and financial support. Please visit us soon and often.

Sincerely,
Janice Sands
Executive Director

** Pen and Brush is a 501(c)(3) publicly supported charitable organization (Tax ID 13-5311420). Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.*