

33 Women

Oil Painting by Catarina Chiatti

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Oil painting by Catarina Chietti,
(currently in the Frauenmuseum Bonn)

Texts:

Franz Mechsner & Catarina Chietti

Photos of CC's painting:

Catarina Chietti & Christine Boock

Photo of the fresco "The School of Athens" (Raphael):

PD-Art (free to use, from Wikimedia Commons)

Film on "33 Women" (in German):

By Christine Boock; <https://vimeo.com/818745031>

Website of the artist (also with other works):

<https://caterina-chietti.de/>



33 Women
(Catarina Chiatti)



Catarina Chietti

33 Women, a large-scale oil painting (2023; 2.00 x 1.60 m²) by Catarina Chietti, depicts important women from history and the present: women's rights activists, scientists, humanitarian role models, and artists. The painting is inspired by Raphael's Renaissance fresco *The School of Athens* (1509; 7.70 x 5.50 m²), which depicts famous philosophers and scientists of antiquity gathered together in a

fantasy architecture. As a vehement commentary on the men's club in Raphael's work, Chietti's *33 Women* celebrates epoch-making female achievements, brilliance, creativity, creative power, commitment, and extraordinary philanthropy. An additional separate area on the wall portrays the women once again in individual portraits with explanatory texts.



The School of Athens (section)
(Raphael of Urbino)

Raphael's fresco *The School of Athens* (painted in 1510-1511) is located in the Vatican Palace in Rome. Gathered in the painting are ancient philosophers and scientists engrossed in reflection and discourse. Plato and Aristotle are placed in the center as the main figures involved in discussion. Plato points to Heaven, seeing the source of knowledge and wisdom in the eternal ideas. Aristotle points to

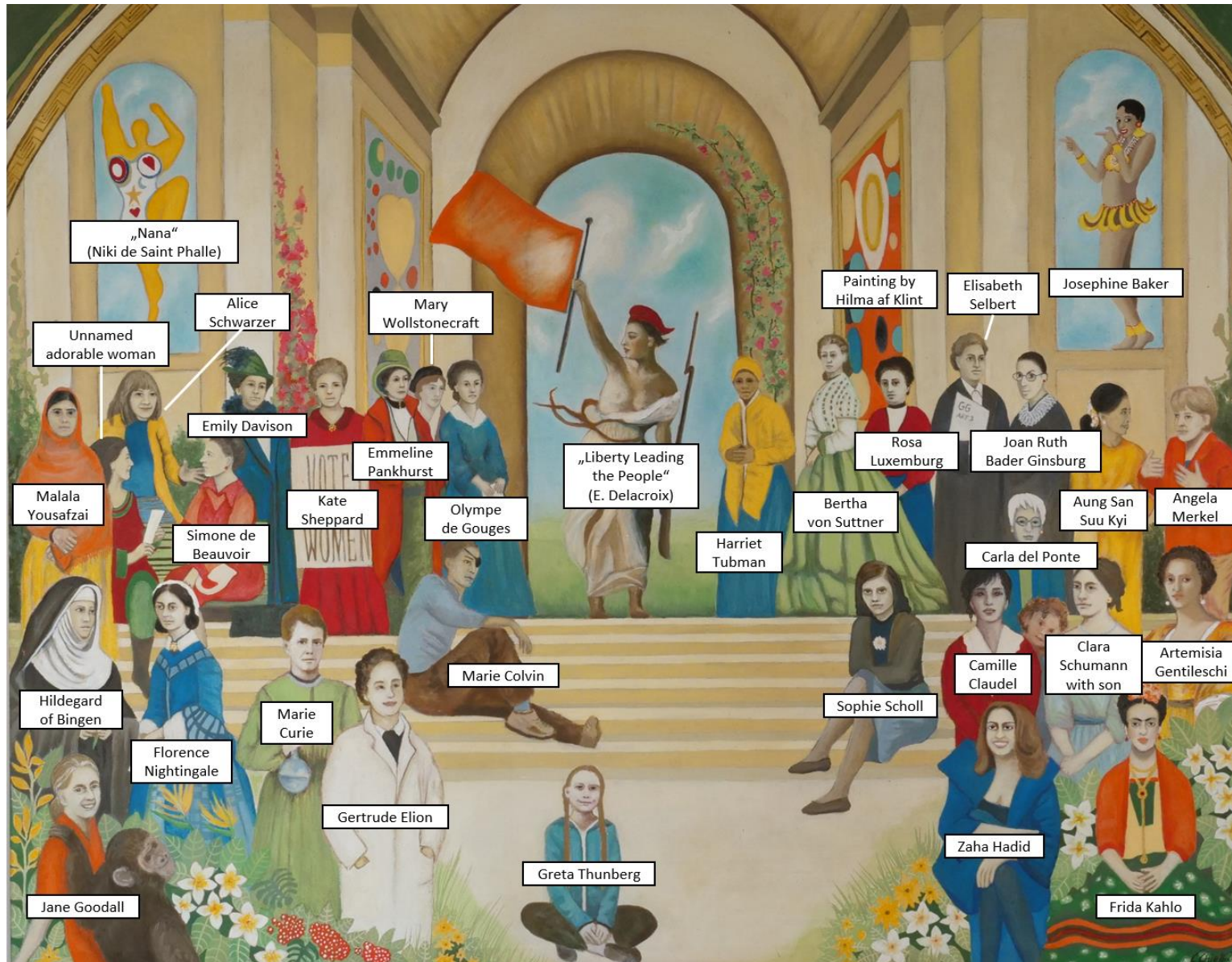
the world since knowledge is based primarily on observation and experience. Only a few of the other characters can be identified with certainty. The fresco can be read as a celebration of intellectual freedom, research, and conversation; an opposition to authority; and a promotion of diversity and mutual respect.



Idea and process

In *The School of Athens*, gathered are a group of men for whose creative and ingenious thoughts and deeds were deserving of gratitude in Raphael's era and even today. However, only men are celebrated in the fresco. Also worth noting are the many important women who have done great things, sometimes risking their lives for the good of mankind, yet no painting honors them together. This motivated Catarina Chietti to paint such a picture in response to Raphael. In the center of Chietti's work is the allegory of freedom from the French Revolution. The emancipation of women began to gain momentum at that time, but the male revolutionaries did not want to know about

the liberation of the female half of humanity, who were not included in the slogan "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity." Women have fought and continue to fight in a special way for respect, dignity, and opportunities for development in virtually all areas of life. Chietti has portrayed representative women whose impulses and changes have shaped the women's movement as well as positively influenced scientific and social development. Like the philosophers and researchers in Raphael's fresco, the women are arranged in groups from four areas: Women's Movement, Freedom/ Democracy, Science, and Art. They exemplify the tremendous achievements and accomplishments of women over the past centuries.



33 Women:
Who is who?
(Catarina Chietti)



Liberty Leading the People

(Painting by Eugène Delacroix, 1798-1863)

An allegory of liberty, equality, and fraternity, the woman in the 3.25 x 2.60 m² oil painting of a barricade fight symbolizes the ideals of the French Revolution. She is the oversized main figure in Eugène Delacroix's artwork, painted in 1830 and now on display in the Louvre in Paris. The occasion of the painting, however, was not the French Revolution of 1789 but the so-called July Revolution of 1830. In just three days (July 27-29, 1830), the rebels succeeded in forcing King Charles X, who had violated the freedoms of 1789, to abdicate. Delacroix observed the fighting but did not participate himself. The painting inspired F.A. Bertholdy's Statue of Liberty in New York.

*"...Although I may not have fought for my country, at least I shall have painted for it. It has restored my good spirits."
(Eugène Delacroix)*



Joan Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933-2020)

As a woman, a Jew, and a mother, the U.S. lawyer was unable to find a job for a long time despite her excellent exams. In 1972, she became a lecturer and eventually the first tenured professor at Columbia Law School. When arguing before the Supreme Court, she skillfully and often successfully argued landmark cases of gender discrimination, including male discrimination. In 1993, at the initiative of President Clinton, she was appointed to the Supreme Court for life. Her efforts paved the way for many U.S. laws to be adjusted in the spirit of equality. A revered liberal icon and the best-known jurist in the United States, she continued to serve despite dealing with cancer and remained on the Supreme Court until her death.

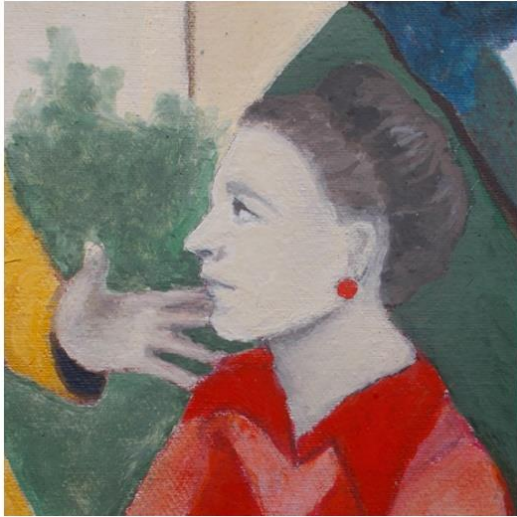
"I didn't change the Constitution; the equality principle was there from the start. I just was an advocate for seeing its full realization." (Joan Ruth Bader Ginsburg)



Josephine Baker (1906-1975)

The daughter of a black washerwoman in St. Louis, Missouri, she witnessed as a child how white people murdered at least 40 African Americans. After humble U.S. beginnings as an extra and chorus girl, she moved to Paris and made a world-wide dream career as a dancer, a vaudeville star, and a singer. Scantly, luxuriously, or extravagantly dressed, she fascinated audiences with unusually wild performances. A French citizen from 1937 onward, she worked as a pilot for the Resistance and for the French secret service during World War II and finally in the air force of Free France as a propaganda officer. She used her fame to support the U.S. civil rights movement, working for peace and international understanding. In 2021, she became the first black woman inducted into the Paris Panthéon.

"I believe if the white people and colored people could get together and be let alone, they would understand each other and consequently love each other." (Josephine Baker)



Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986)

Freedom was the theme that defined the French writer and philosopher. Her early credo was individualistic: the freedom of others threatens one's own freedom. War and dictatorship, however, made the value of community central to the "dutiful daughter" (hence the title of one of her novels): the freedom of the individual succeeds only with the freedom of all. Freedom means being respected as a person and being able to develop oneself. This, however, is denied to women, exclusively due to social circumstances. The fact that women's liberation and social liberation belong together determined her feminist and socialist thinking, writing, and work throughout her life.

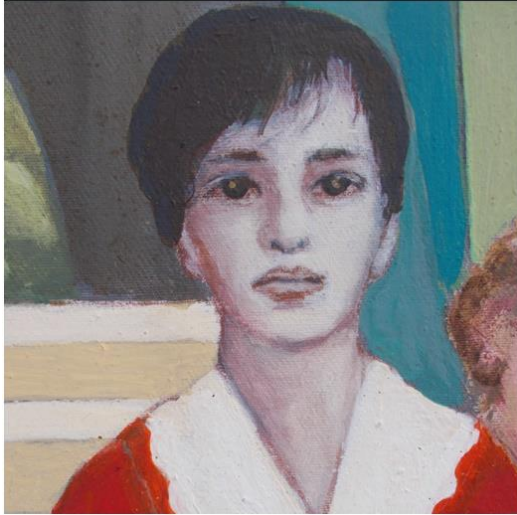
*"One is not born a woman, but rather becomes a woman."
(Simone de Beauvoir)*



Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179)

Dedicated to the monastic life by her noble parents, Hildegard of Bingen received an intensive religious upbringing and extensive education. As a Benedictine nun and eventually abbess, she published theological, ethical, and philosophical writings, approved by the pope, in which she referred to heavenly visions. She founded several convents. She collected the natural and medical knowledge of her time, for example, about the properties and effects of plants and precious stones and metals. She enriched this knowledge with her own insights and reflections. She created spiritual poetry and chants. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI canonized the reform and enlightenment-oriented nun for the entire universal church, even though she had already been venerated as a saint in many regions.

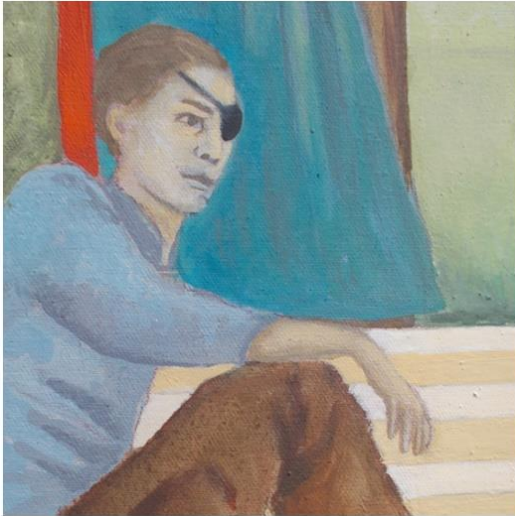
*"Humans know well about the good, even if they don't do it."
(Hildegard von Bingen)*



Camille Claudel (1864-1943)

The Frenchwoman had already practiced sculpture as a teenager. At the age of twenty, she entered into a working partnership and love affair with the sculptor Auguste Rodin, who was 24 years her senior. Sensitive expressiveness of nude or semi-nude figures and bold depiction of human encounter in all its pleasurable and sorrowful facets characterize her sculptures. In 1893, she dissolved her relationship with Rodin, as he did not want to part with his partner for her. Withdrawn and emotionally wounded, she now modeled mainly smaller but often breathtaking figures. From 1905 onward, she destroyed most of her works. At the instigation of her mother, she was taken to a mental institution in 1913 and died there after 30 years. Only posthumously were her works recognized for their creative originality and independent genius.

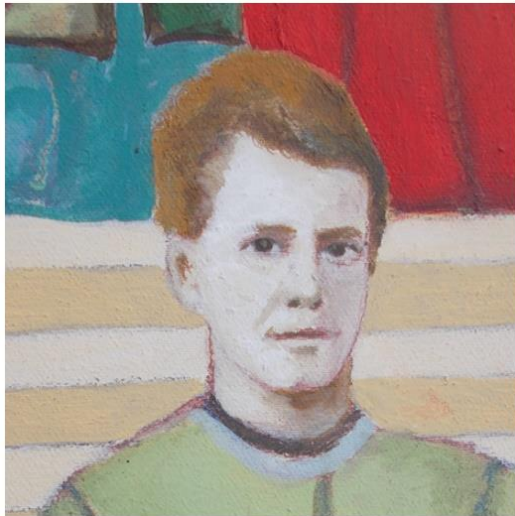
"I didn't do all that I did to end up nameless in a lunatic asylum. I deserve better." (Camille Claudel)



Marie Colvin (1956-2012)

The U.S. native studied literature at the renowned Yale University and then worked as a journalist. For *The Sunday Times*, she contributed numerous reports from crisis and war zones, interviewed despots, and made crimes against humanity public. In order to draw the world's attention to the horror of the battles and the suffering of the people, she time and again went into the midst of the most terrible events. A shell fragment in the Sri Lankan civil war destroyed her left eye, which is why she wore an eye patch from then on. Marie Colvin died in the Syrian civil war when government troops shelled the building where she was staying.

"When you're huddled in a cold gully under shellfire with 12 men, fear is as great an equalizer as dirt." (Marie Colvin)



Marie Curie (1867-1934)

Born Maria Skłodowska in Warsaw, a university education in her home country was denied to her as a woman. Starting in 1891, she studied physics and later mathematics in Paris. In 1895, she married the physicist Pierre Curie. Using a jointly developed method, she realized that the radiation of substances containing uranium emanates from uranium atoms. The couple discovered two other radioactive elements, radium and polonium. Unfortunately, Pierre died in a traffic accident in 1906. Marie Curie succeeded her husband as a professor in Paris. She received two Nobel Prizes, the first in 1903 (physics) together with her husband and Henri Becquerel and the second in 1911 (chemistry) alone. During World War I, she provided humanitarian aid with mobile X-ray stations. Beginning in 1922, she was an elected member of the International Commission for Intellectual Cooperation of the newly founded League of Nations.

"A scholar in his laboratory is not only a technician; he stands before the laws of nature like a child before a fairy-tale world." (Marie Curie)



Emily Davison (1872-1913)

Emily Wilding Davison was one of the most famous British *suffragettes*, who were fighters for women's *suffrage*. She studied chemistry, biology, and literature at Oxford, graduating with honors. From 1906 onward, she was active in the radical Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), with a focus on women's suffrage. Like many of her fellow woman activists, she received prison sentences for militant action. Hunger strikes were broken by the state power with brutal force-feeding. Emily Davison launched her most spectacular action at the Epsom Derby in 1913. In front of film cameras, she ran toward the king's approaching horse, probably to throw a scarf with the slogan "Votes for Women" over it. The horse knocked her down, and she died in the hospital four days later.

"The true militant suffragette is the epitome of the determination of women to possess their own souls." (Emily Davison)



Carla Del Ponte (born 1947)

Swiss jurist Carla Del Ponte brought mafia bosses and war criminals to trial, including from 1999 to 2007 when she served as chief prosecutor of the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague for the former Yugoslavia. A head of state, a prime minister, army chiefs, police generals, and high-ranking politicians had to answer at the tribunal. It was proven that a genocide took place in Srebrenica. Many of those responsible were convicted. In her struggle for justice, she was exposed to obstructions, lack of support, and dangers to her life. For example, she narrowly escaped an explosive attack during a visit to Palermo. From 2008 to 2011, Del Ponte acted as the Swiss ambassador to Argentina.

"People always try to understand the perpetrators. Whoever does something criminal may tell how broken their childhood was ... I never understood that. These guys are adults now and they have to take responsibility for what they did." (Carla del Ponte)



Gertrude Elion (1918-1999)

When the American was 15 years old, her beloved grandfather died of cancer. She decided to study chemistry in order to work on drugs against the disease that claimed her grandfather's life. After successfully completing her studies, she was unable to find employment as a woman until 1944, when the drug company Burroughs-Wellcome & Company allowed her to work with biochemist George H. Hitchings. In groundbreaking research, the team designed drugs to treat a range of serious diseases, including leukemia, malaria, gout, herpes, and AIDS. Innovatively, the researchers focused on understanding cell metabolism biochemically and targeting molecular key sites for intervention. The success of the team's approach earned Gertrude Elion many honors, including the 1988 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with George H. Hitchings and James W. Black.

"In my day I was told 'Women didn't go into chemistry.' I saw no reason why we couldn't." (Gertrude Elion)



Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1653)

The Italian is considered the most important female painter of the Baroque period. Many of her expressive paintings deal with the theme of gender and power from the perspective of women in sensitively expressive facets of fear and vulnerability, courage, and strength. The emotional traces of an early rape seem to at least shine through in some of her works, clearly, for instance, in her drastic painting *Judith decapitates Holofernes*, in which she portrays herself as Judith and her rapist as Holofernes. Despite her gender, the artist has had a glittering career. The highest secular and ecclesiastical patrons bestowed commissions on her. The exclusive Academy of Painting in Florence accepted her as its first female member.

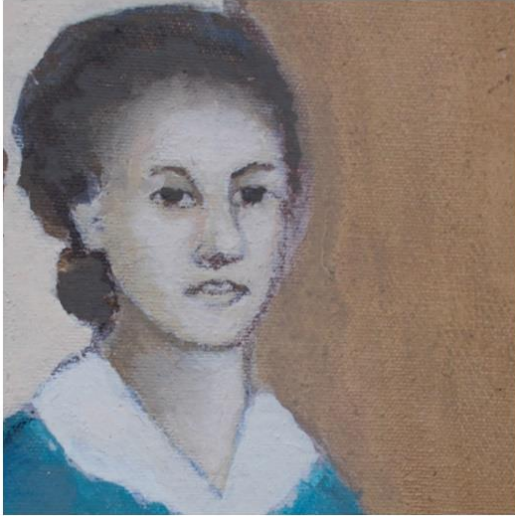
"My Illustrious Highness, I will show you what a woman can do." (Artemisia Gentileschi)



Jane Goodall (born 1934)

Without having studied, Jane Goodall began researching chimpanzees in the Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania in 1960. Her many years of unbiased observations revolutionized knowledge about these great apes. For example, she recognized that chimpanzees use tools, consume meat, and hunt together. While they are usually friendly, cooperative communal creatures, they can also be aggressive to the point of waging outright warfare between groups. In later years, Goodall became increasingly involved in chimpanzee and nature conservation, animal rights, ecological tourism, and related educational projects.

"Chimpanzees show us that no clear line separates us humans from animals. We are not the only beings with personality, thought, and feeling." (Jane Goodall)



Olympe de Gouges (1748-1793)

During the time of the French Revolution, Olympe de Gouges fought as a writer and speaker against slavery, for general human rights, and especially for women's rights. The male revolutionaries of Gouges' time widely rejected equal rights for women. In 1791, Gouges published a Declaration of the Rights of Woman and of the Female Citizen, analogous to France's male-oriented constitution. For example, Article 3 of Gouges' document contains the following statement: "The origin of all sovereignty rests ultimately in the nation, which is nothing other than the union of women and men." In other articles, she emphasized that both sexes and not only men are meant to enjoy rights. Her advocacy of the federalization of France brought her before the Revolutionary Tribunal in 1793. In her trial, she spoke out courageously against Robespierre's regime of terror. She was sentenced to death and executed.

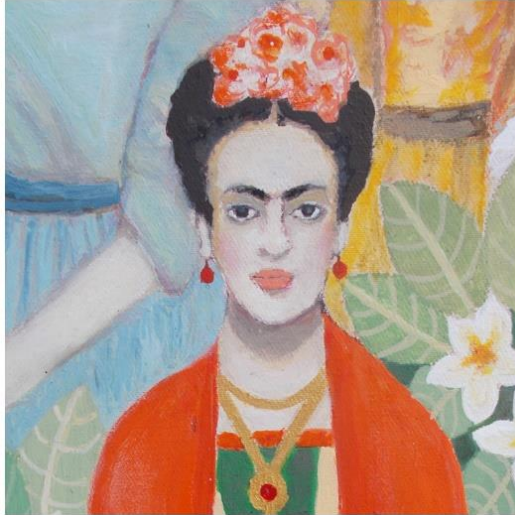
"Woman has the right to ascend the scaffold. So must she have the right to mount the speaker's rostrum." (Olympe de Gouges)



Zaha Hadid (1950-2016)

For a long time, the exciting, sometimes award-winning construction plans of the Iraqi-born London architect were considered unrealizable. It wasn't until 1993 that she constructed her first building, a plant fire station in Weil am Rhein in Germany. Her breakthrough came with a 140-meter pavilion for the 1999 State Garden Show, also in Weil am Rhein, and competition wins for museums in Rome and Cincinnati. As a "star architect," she was soon known for her idiosyncratic experimental buildings in previously unseen flowing energetic-dynamic forms. Utopian and massive, at the same time often organic in playful weightlessness, Zaha Hadid's architectural works realize her courageous-creative imaginative spirit. In 2004, she became the first woman to receive the most important honor in architecture, the Pritzker Architecture Prize.

"Architecture is like writing. You have to edit it over and over so it looks effortless." (Zaha Hadid)



Frida Kahlo (1907-1954)

The life of the Mexican painter Frida Kahlo is marked by misfortunes but also by courage, energy, and creative vitality. Confined to bed after a serious bus accident in 1925, she began to paint. Her poetic self-portraits reflect her strokes of fate and agonies, the destruction of her body, her rage over her husband Diego Rivera's infidelities, and her grief over her miscarriages. However, the paintings by Kahlo also celebrate life, her delight in nature and folkloric colorful dresses, and her fascination with Mesoamerican Indian culture. Politically, like her husband, she saw herself as a communist. Even during her lifetime, Kahlo was a recognized artist. Her radiant worldwide fame, however, began only after her death.

"I am not sick. I'm broken. But I am happy to be alive as long as I can paint." (Frida Kahlo)



Painting by Hilma af Klint (1862-1944)

The Swedish painter Hilma af Klint was initially successful with landscapes and portraits. Beginning in 1906, however, she painted first small-format then large-format non-representational paintings to give free expression to spiritual energies. With her paintings little recognized, she decreed that they could not be exhibited until 20 years after her death. It was not until the 1980s that her oeuvre was rediscovered and finally exhibited and appreciated spectacularly and internationally at important venues such as the Guggenheim Museum. The Swede produced her first radically non-objective paintings even before the recognized pioneers of abstract art such as Kandinsky and Mondrian detached their painting from the object starting around 1911. Klint can thus be considered the earliest modern abstract artist.

"Those who have the gift of looking deeper can drop the form, and focus on the wonderful aspect hidden behind every form, which is called life." (Hilma af Klint)



Aung San Suu Kyi (born 1945)

The Burmese politician studied in New Delhi and at Oxford. Back in Burma in the late 1980s, she fought nonviolently for democracy and human rights against the military dictator U Ne Win. The National League for Democracy (NLD), which she founded, won the parliamentary election in 1990. The victory was suppressed. Aung San Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest from 1989 to 1995. In 1991, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for peace. After further government harassment and house arrest, she won a seat in parliament in 2012, and the NLD achieved a majority in 2015. Aung San Suu Kyi subsequently held several government posts but with a problematic role in the persecution of the Muslim Rohingya. In February 2021, the military forcibly deposed her and the NLD-led government.

"Never let your fears stop you from doing what you know is right." (Aung San Suu Kyi)



Rosa Luxemburg (1871-1919)

As a schoolgirl in Warsaw, she had already joined a Marxist group. After graduating from high school, she fled to Zurich in Switzerland, where she earned a doctorate in national economics. From 1898 onward, she was active in the German Social Democratic Party in Berlin. As a representative of the left wing, she criticized purely reformist currents in the SPD (Social Democratic Party of Germany). In the "Spartakus League," she agitated for a proletarian revolution. Imprisoned several times, she welcomed the Russian Revolution but criticized the suppression of freedom of opinion and speech. After the World War, she founded the Communist Party of Germany in 1918 with Karl Liebknecht and others. Ebert's interim government bloodily put down socialist uprisings with the help of the Reichswehr and militarist Voluntary Corps. Soldiers of such units murdered Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht.

"Freedom only for supporters of the government, only for members of a party - however numerous they may be - is not freedom. Freedom is always freedom of those who think differently." (Rosa Luxemburg)



Angela Merkel (born 1954)

Having grown up in the former German Democratic Republic (Eastern Germany), Angela Merkel (née Kasner) earned a doctorate in physics with the grade "very good." She became involved in the Eastern German "Democratic Awakening" party during the fall of communism in 1989/90. That party joined the CDU (Christian Democratic Union) in 1990. Angela Merkel was federal minister for women and youth, environment minister, chairwoman of her party, and leader of the parliamentary opposition. From 2005 to 2021, she was Germany's first female chancellor. She appointed numerous women to her government teams. Her refugee policy presented a humane and hospitable Germany. Her analytically thorough, deliberative, matter-of-factly, and composed way of arguing is exemplary for democratic dialogical culture.

"If we now have to apologize for showing a friendly face in emergency situations, then this is not my country." (Angela Merkel)



Florence Nightingale (1820-1910)

Thoroughly and extensively educated but not admitted to university as a woman, the young Englishwoman decided to devote her life to alleviating suffering as a nurse. Engaged with colleagues in a British military hospital in Turkey during the Crimean War (1853-1856), she found catastrophic conditions. She provided clean clothing, beds, sanitation, washing facilities, heating, and healthy food. She arranged for renovations to the house and even helped soldiers write letters. Back in England, despite suffering from a chronic illness, she cared for reforms in nursing and nursing education on a scientific basis and wrote important books. In England, she was honored many times. For example, the king made her the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit.

"Nursing is an art: and if it is to be made an art, it requires an exclusive devotion as hard a preparation as any painter's or sculptor's work." (Florence Nightingale)



Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928)

In view of the failures of a moderate women's movement, the Englishwoman Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1903 with a focus on suffrage and the goal of gaining more attention and success through more radical campaigns. Suffragettes of the WSPU disrupted politicians' speeches and organized large demonstrations among other actions. Increasingly brutal state violence stimulated more extreme women's actions. Militant suffragettes broke shop windows, set fire to mailboxes, and even eventually burned houses. Many suffragettes were jailed, and their hunger strikes were met with torturous force-feeding. Emmeline Pankhurst herself was imprisoned over ten times. With the start of World War I, the WSPU ended its campaigns and supported the British mobilization. All imprisoned suffragettes were released.

"We must liberate half of the human race, the women, so that they can help to free the other half." (Emmeline Pankhurst)



Figure by Niki de Saint Phalle (1930-2002)

"Nanas," big colorful sculptures of women, are the most famous works of Catherine de Saint Phalle, already called Niki as a child. After a career as a model, she turned to art in a psychological crisis. By her own admission, she was abused by her father for years. After early works full of anger and pain, the Nanas finally embodied lively female energy for the artist. Beginning in 1965, she created Nanas and Nana installations, often together with her husband, the Swiss kinetic artist Jean Tinguely. Among them were a walk-in Nana almost 30 meters long in Stockholm; *Noah's Ark*, a figure park and a children's playground with mythical creatures in Jerusalem; the *Stravinsky Fountain* in Paris; and the *Garden of Tarot* in Tuscany, with fairytale Nana buildings and magical grotesque sculptures.

"Most people don't see the rough edges in my work." (Niki de Saint Phalle)



Sophie Scholl (1921-1943)

As a student of biology and philosophy in Munich, Germany, Sophia Magdalena Scholl became involved in the "White Rose" resistance group against the National Socialist dictatorship, together with her brother Hans and other friends. Love of nature and Christian religiosity shaped the young woman. Caught distributing resistance leaflets at Munich University, Scholl was sentenced to death together with her brother and White Rose member Christoph Probst in a show trial by the Nazi "People's Court" under Roland Freisler on February 22, 1943 and executed on the same day.

"You have to do something in order not to be guilty yourself. For this we need a hard mind and a soft heart. We have all our standards within ourselves, but we don't care enough about them." (Sophie Scholl)



Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

Clara Schumann (née Wieck) appeared as a piano prodigy at the age of nine. She learned to play the instrument at the age of six and at ten added lessons in composition. In 1840, against her father's wishes, she married the composer Robert Schumann, who was a decade her senior, with whom she maintained a close musical collaboration and undertook triumphant concert tours. On the other hand, she reduced her practicing so as not to disturb her husband's composing. She was also forced to compose less herself because she had to take care of the husband, household, and children. Her husband died at the age of 46 in a mental hospital in 1856. Clara Schumann composed very little after that, but she continued her concert activities and was friends with important musicians, especially intensively with the composer Johannes Brahms.

"I will not give up my art, I would have to reproach myself forever!" (Clara Schumann)



Alice Schwarzer (born 1942)

As a young woman in Paris, Alice Schwarzer experienced the life-threatening misery of a friend who secretly had an abortion. Soon she began writing about women's problems and campaigning for women's rights. In a spectacular 1971 campaign against the German Paragraph 218, which banned abortion, she managed to get the German magazine *Stern* to publish the confessions of women who had an abortion. Her book *The Small Difference and its Big Consequences* (1975) lets women speak out about their everyday oppression and fights for sexual and economic self-determination. In 1977, she initiated and established the emancipatory magazine *Emma*. A lawsuit against sexist *Stern* cover images was dismissed in 1978, but the issue was now on everyone's lips. In writings and campaigns, Schwarzer has fought against pornography and prostitution. Her commitment brought her many vituperations, but also significant honors.

"If one day it no longer matters whether I am a man or a woman, only then will I have achieved my vision of the future of the coexistence of the sexes." (Alice Schwarzer)



Elisabeth Selbert (1896-1986)

In 1948/49, the lawyer and SPD politician was one of the four "mothers" of the West Germany's Basic Law in the male-dominated Parliamentary Council. She was instrumental in ensuring that the passage "Men and women have equal rights" was included after it had been rejected twice. It was thus established as a fundamental right that equality should be comprehensive and not limited to civic acts, e.g., elections. Equality was therefore a legal mandate for politics and society, although it would still take tough struggles to even begin to realize the principle. Until 1958, Elisabeth Selbert was a member of the Hessian state parliament, where she was active in the committee for the election of judges and on the role of the judiciary in democracy. She then withdrew from politics. Until the age of 85, she worked as a lawyer in her family law office.

"The principle of equality can never be taken out of the Basic Law, never again. Without it, all the reforms that we take for granted today would not have been possible." (Elisabeth Selbert)



Kate Sheppard (1847-1934)

The Scotswoman Kate Sheppard (born Catherine Wilson Malcolm) immigrated with her family to New Zealand in 1868. There she was instrumental in making the country the first in the world to introduce women's suffrage in 1893. She worked to abolish corsets and obstructive clothing, encouraging women to exercise. In 1885, she became a member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and soon led its suffrage campaigns. Several related petitions to Parliament failed before the deputees passed suffrage for women in 1893. Until her death, Kate Sheppard prominently campaigned for women's rights, women's education, marriage equality, and other issues. Sheppard is featured on the New Zealand \$10 bill.

"Is it right that while the gambler, the drunkard, and even the wife-beater has a vote, earnest, educated and refined women are denied it?" (Kate Sheppard)



Bertha von Suttner (1843-1914)

In 1876, the Austrian (born Countess Kinsky von Wchinitz und Tettau) entered into an "improper" marriage with Arthur von Suttner, seven years her junior, and fled with him to Georgia in the Caucasus to escape both their families. In modest living conditions, the couple earned their income with any work that came along. Among other things, her husband reported on the Russian-Turkish war that broke out in 1877. Bertha also realized her talent as a writer. Upon her return to Austria, she caused a sensation with her pacifist novel *Lay Down Your Arms!* A figurehead of pacifism, she advanced to become a prominent activist in peace societies and at peace congresses. In 1905, she became the first woman to accept the Nobel Prize for Peace. She died in 1914, one month before the start of the First World War.

"After 'love', 'help' is the most beautiful time word in the world." (Bertha von Suttner)



Greta Thunberg (born 2003)

In August 2018, Greta Thunberg, then fifteen years old, sat outside the Riksdag in Stockholm, Sweden, every day for three weeks, carrying a sign reading "School strike for climate." Her lone protest acted as a spark for ever larger, eventually global, actions for climate protection. In Sweden, she founded "Fridays for Future," a powerful form of protest with strikes and demonstrations that has been adopted in numerous countries. Unwavering, clever, and rhetorically gifted, Thunberg became the figurehead of the movement against global warming. She spoke to prominent politicians and at demonstrations, UN climate conferences, and before the plenary of the World Economic Forum. In 2019, U.S. *Time* magazine named her "Person of the Year."

*"I learned that you are never too small to make a difference."
(Greta Thunberg)*



Harriet Tubman (ca.1820-1913)

Born a black slave in the U.S. state of Maryland, Harriet Tubman escaped from her owners in 1849 and fled north to Pennsylvania, where slavery had been abolished. Nonetheless, she returned to her home state time and again, risking her life as an activist for the anti-slavery network "Underground Railroad" to smuggle escaped slaves into the northern states. After aiding slaves to escape became a punishable offense even in the northern states, Harriet Tubman then supported the escape of slaves to Canada. During the War of Secession, she worked as a nurse and cook as well as a scout for the troops of the northern states. Later, she cared for people in need and became involved in the women's movement. Plans are currently in place for her portrait to appear on the U.S. \$20 bill starting in 2030.

*"I have heard their groans and sighs, and seen her tears, and I would give every drop of blood in my veins to free them."
(Harriet Tubman)*



Unnamed adorable woman



Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797)

The English philosopher, writer, and educator worked to replace the dominant male-centered worldview with an egalitarian humane theory and practice. She held that both sexes were equally capable of reason, yet women were denied the necessary education. Mary Wollstonecraft fought for women's equality but argued that both women and men needed to change their attitudes toward each other. The obedient mentality would harm women because, as opportunists, they denied themselves and therefore became unhappy. The ruler mentality would harm men because they would be respected only as rulers and not as human beings, and they would therefore become unhappy. Wollstonecraft died of childbed fever at the age of only 38.

"Strengthen the feminine mind by expanding it, and there will be an end to blind obedience." (Mary Wollstonecraft)



Malala Yousafzai (born 1997)

At the age of eleven, the Pakistani was already campaigning orally and in writing for girls' education, supported by her father. At that time, the Taliban terrorized her home region and wanted to ban girls from school. In 2012, a member of the Taliban shot the young activist in the head. She survived and, from her new home in England, fought even more vehemently for the right to education for all around the world. Rhetorically brilliant and with a sense of effectiveness, she attracted attention for her cause among the public and governments, even giving a contentious speech at the United Nations in 2013. Malala Yousafzai has received numerous awards for her commitment, including the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize as the youngest laureate ever.

"I raise my voice...not so that I can shout, but so that those without voice can be heard." (Malala Yousafzai)