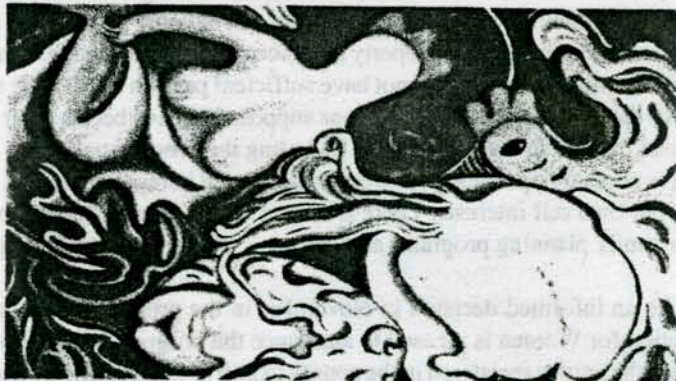


WOMEN'S PRESS



TO EDUCATE, ENLIGHTEN, AND EMPOWER

BREEDERS



"Breeders"© by Dorothy Riggs Oil on Canvas 48' x 36'

This oil painting is a metaphor illustrating how women are still seen as breeders and sex objects. The faceless women represent the lack of individual identities. The color red symbolizes menstrual blood, fertility and passion. Conversely, it also represents rage towards a patriarchal society which devalues women. Many degrading remarks have been used over the years which we have continuously taken for granted. Consider the phrases: "A Young Spring Chicken", "Hen Pecked", "The Chicken Ranch", and the male slang "Getting Laid". These all refer to the anthropomorphizing of women into chickens as represented within this work.

Women carry life within the ovum and, through aging, the ability to reproduce ceases. Some women are cast off with mates looking for younger, child-bearing women. Those left behind are led to an emotional slaughter, which is not unlike being sent to the local butcher. Can we honor all cycles of women's lives, from being young and fertile to the aging process and menopause? Furthermore, can we support women regardless of the lifestyles they choose?

We are more than just breeders of life. Our value of self will only change when society understands that women are individuals, capable of designing their own lives and making their own reproductive choices. Women need not submit to the control of others, and specifically to the tyranny over their bodies. The voice for women's equality is ours!

I look forward to seeing you at this year's "Womens' Equality Day" Celebration!

Dorothy Riggs, Artist

P.O Box 4057 San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-4057

www.dorothyriggs.com

Email: driggs@fix.net

Editors Note: Ms. Riggs' work will be shown at Women Equality Day 2000 to be held on 8/26/00.

For more information about Women's Equality Day, see the page 8.

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