

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Goal:

To increase social awareness of the issues by spreading knowledge through text, images, and internet communities

Empowerment—What does it mean?

- ◆ To give somebody a sense of confidence or self-esteem
- ◆ To give somebody power of authority
- ◆ Recognizing one's strengths and exploding sexist misconceptions and stereotypes
- ◆ Emphasis is on power with rather than power over



Empowerment Through History



Women in Athletics

- Lack of competitive sports for women
- February 8, 1912 KU organized the Women's Athletic Association (WAA)
- Title IX, 1972



Senior Women's Basket Ball Team



THIES BROWN MARTIN PARKINSON PRATT
DODDERIDGE BARBOCK CASTLE PONQUIST DENMIRE

Empowerment of Women in Higher Education

- Inclusion of women in decision making examples

At KU Emily Taylor's efforts

1958 Commission on Status of Women

1961 Women Students Governance Body

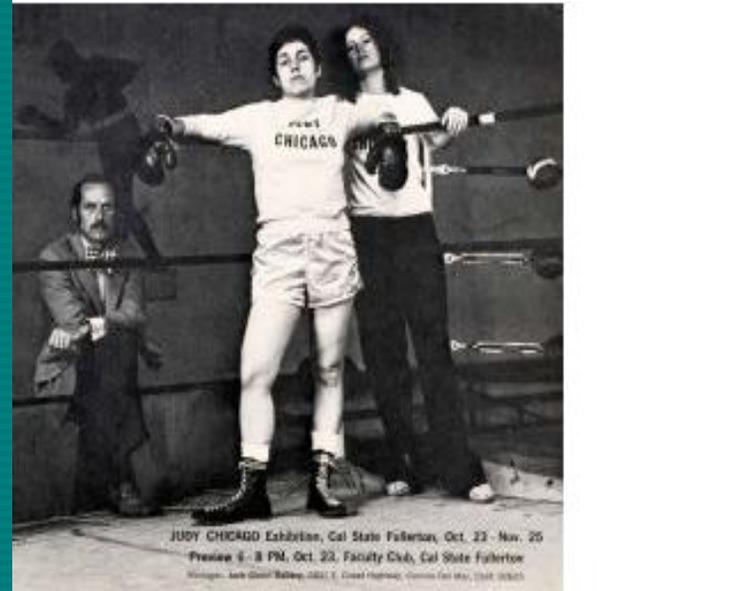
1972 February Sisters Demands

1975 National Identification Program



Judy Chicago

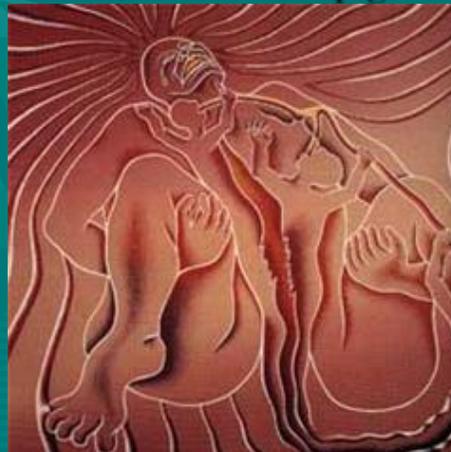
- Beginning of her career she worked with groups of woman in academic settings.
- Instructs her first, all female class in 1973 at Fresno
- Chicago spends an entire year with the same group of women instructing them in art making, reading literature, and looking only at images of work from female artists.
- Her second foray into teaching was at UCLA in 1974
- Once again, her students were all female and they worked together to create the installation “Womanhouse”, which features art that speaks only to women’s issues.



Judy Chicago



- For her third experience as an instructor, Chicago teamed up with Sheila De Brettville, a graphic designer, and Arlene Raven, an art historian and they instituted the Feminist Studio Workshop. This was the first ever feminist art institute.
- Determined to create a space with community atmosphere they moved into The Women's Building, which housed the institute, several co-op galleries and a feminist bookstore. The entire building was run by women!



Chicago On The Issue Of Educating Women



- “Additionally, not enough women of achievement have yet accepted the responsibility to provide for younger women by committing themselves to the education of women.” She goes on to say, “It demand a high level of social responsibility, often seen as inconsistent with the role of an artist.”
- Although she seems to believe that teaching is the way to empower women, she quits the academic life and begins involving women in her art projects.
- The Dinner Party (1975-1980) involves a group of 20-30 people that work side by side with her on the project in Chicago’s own studio
- The Birth Project (1980-1985) involves hundreds of needleworkers (female volunteers) all over the world to stitch her images from their own homes. She is fascinated by these women and begins visiting their homes in order to film and observe them.

Art historian, Anne Wagner defines feminism as, “A collective effort to imagine a better future.”

Present

How Connecting Strategies Of The Past Affect the Present

- Resources

- Internet



- Television



Present

Message

Reproductive
Rights



Health



The Vote



Groups That Are Working Towards Empowering Women

- **Empowering Women Network, Inc. (EWN)**
 - Formed in 2001, the EWN focuses on leadership and the advancement of professional women.
 - They recognized that you have to teach women to master the art of balance and to do this they focus on four key areas; professional development, personal growth, social relations, and health/well-being.
- **Justice for Women Working Group (JWWG)**
 - JWWG serves an important role in the context of the churches that mirror society's continued ambivalence toward women who seek equality and justice. This group has been striving to help women achieve equality since 1977.
 - Program Director Karen Hessel noted that, "the women agree to work together on certain things that they know they can do together that they don't necessarily have the freedom or flexibility or the resources to do in their own context."
 - The members offer each other and environment of safety and mutual support.
- **Eve Ensler's V-Day**
 - This year the event was V to the Tenth and it was held in New Orleans. Most money is raised through performances of the Vagina Monologues. They did this on the KU campus this year and all of the performances were sold out. Buying a ticket to watch the performance is a easy and entertaining way to help donate to the cause.

Recommendations

- **Spread Knowledge** in the form of newsletters, magazines, books, posters, and art
- **Get Involved** in an organization or group that addresses the issue that you are most passionate about
- **Take Action** donate your time, talents, or money to the cause

