



Ruth's Table

Building Bridges: Breaking Barriers | Part Two **Online Viewing Room: March 18 - May 13, 2021**

Curatorial Reflections

Building Bridges: Breaking Barriers is an attempt to tackle the issue of rampant ageism plaguing our society by highlighting a group of Bay Area artists who demonstrate a continuous evolution of artistic output with unpredicted shifts in style and medium that span several decades. As revealed by artist statements, some of the shifts might have been instigated by the COVID-19 pandemic, imposed barriers of the art market, the intersections with science and digital technology, that have contributed to new exciting vistas of a very crowded creative field.

What do we learn about breaking barriers and building bridges? How do we keep relevant and reinvent ourselves through a lifetime? Can a prolific output and active presence in the art world change minds and perceptions of growing older? Can we break barriers and build bridges that go beyond the art community? Is technology the ultimate barrier-breaker that transcends diverse communities, be it race, culture or economic difference? What is the role of memory? Are breaking of barriers, or walls, physical or metaphorical, can help pave the way to building bridges for the sake of common good? These are some of the issues that we pursue during the course of this exhibition.

Once we understand that breaking barriers are possible, we can envision the building of bridges that are multidisciplinary, intergenerational and multicultural, that unite us in a common cause. Recognizing the existence of prejudice against the older adults can be made by confronting visual and representational ageism usually seen in the media. This exhibition provides a framework that promotes positive attitudes and appreciation leading us to building a more sustainable bridge, when dealing with ageism and beyond. The questions I raise: Can art change our mind and perception? This elusive question will continue to guide us throughout this series and will continue to allude long after the memories of this show fade.

- Curator Hanna Regev

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