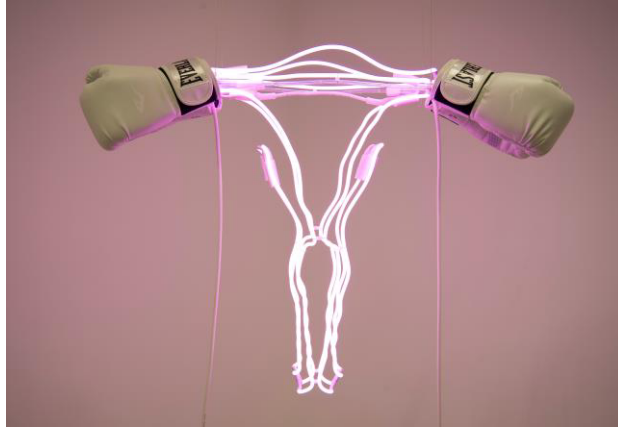




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

21c Museum Hotel Kansas City presents *The Future Is Female*

21c Kansas City's newest exhibition is a multi-media exploration of contemporary feminist art.



Zoë Buckman, *Champ*, 2016. Neon, glass, leather.

Kansas City, Missouri, April 2nd - 21c Museum Hotel Kansas City is excited to announce the opening of *The Future Is Female*, an exhibition featuring 74 works by 48 artists from all around the world, investigating identity, consumer culture, ecology, history, mythology, and power, revealing both the legacy and the persistence of the struggle for equality and inclusion.

The Future Is Female will open to the public on **Thursday, April 25, from 6-8pm**. The evening will feature introductory remarks by 21c Chief Curator and Museum Director Alice Gray Stites, and a special presentation by visiting artist Zoë Buckman. This event is free and open to the public, and the exhibition is open, free of charge, 24/7. The exhibition will remain on view at 21c Kansas City through March 2025.

[> Follow this link to RSVP to the opening.](#)

[> Follow this link to download images.](#)

In the spirit of celebrating the power and creativity of female artists, 21c invites you to extend your evening with "**The Future Is Female: A Culinary Exhibition.**" This exclusive dinner, meticulously created to complement the groundbreaking exhibition, offers a unique 4-course culinary journey, crafted by female chefs from across 21c's esteemed restaurant portfolio. Immerse yourself in a dining experience where art and cuisine intersect, reflecting the themes of identity, empowerment, and unity showcased in the exhibition. Tickets are \$100 and include drink pairings with each course. Dinner starts promptly at 8:00pm, guests are encouraged to arrive by 7:45pm if not attending the opening. Seating is limited.

[> Follow this link to purchase tickets.](#)

About The Future Is Female

On view throughout 21c Kansas City's gallery spaces, *The Future is Female* highlights the impact of the art of the Second Wave Women's movement on today's cultural landscape while examining contemporary definitions of female identity and experience. Through the works of feminist artists such as Zoe Buckman, Vibha Galhotra, Frances Goodman, Jenny Holzer, Yvette Molina, Zanele Muholi, Michele Pred, Alison Saar, Mickalene Thomas, and others, the exhibition explores representations of the body, the influence of craft-based art making, and the evolution of definitions of gender and sexuality.

The affirmation of the self as subject and the prevalence of craft-based practices such as sewing, weaving, embroidery, and appliqué in today's art reflects the ongoing influence of feminist art of the 1970s, which merged art and activism, elevating everyday materials, methods, and experiences, and shifting art-making out of the isolated studio and hallowed institutions into both more intimate domestic and broader public spheres. The ensuing transformation ushered in generations of artists addressing identity, the body, and the validation of personal experience.

"Today, feminist artists remain at the forefront of illuminating inequality and discrimination due to gender, race, and sexual identity, issues which often intersect with economic and ecological crises," says 21c Chief Curator Alice Gray Stites. "Varied, articulate, and often urgent, the voices and visions presented in this exhibition express the need for social, economic, and political change in order to build a more inclusive and equitable future."

The inventive use of language, whether printed, projected, or recorded animates works by Carrie Mae Weems, Jenny Holzer, and Nina Katchadourian, introducing unexpected voices into both art and history that resonate as private and public at once. Weems and Holzer use text to interrogate power through self-expression, creating new narratives for cultural and political resistance, while Katchadourian voices the frustrations of everyday life, inserting her artistic identity into the male-dominated history of portraiture.

Expanding beyond the individual experience to a shared one, Vibha Galhotra and Alison Saar evoke Classical mythology mixed with grim reality to create culturally critical work addressing shared global concerns, connecting past and present adversities resulting from the intersection of environmental destruction and social inequality. The female population of Saya Woolfalk's utopian vision transcend binary divisions. Inspired equally by science and science fiction, nature and technology, Woolfalk's Empathics are hybrid creatures whose DNA combines genetic materials from humans and plants, a cross-species who are highly culturally adaptive and who feel and understand deeply the experiences of others.

Alluding to a phrase first popularized by a woman-centric bookstore in the 1970s, and revived in recent years as a mantra for the continuing demands for equal rights and challenging notions of binary identity, *The Future is Female* offers a timely exploration of gender politics through artworks that subvert, challenge, and reshape the constraints and conventions imposed by the patriarchy.

Featured prominently in the exhibition is the work of Zoë Buckman, a multidisciplinary artist who explores themes of gender, power, intimacy, and popular culture. Eight works from Buckman's oeuvre,

created over the last ten years, will be on view at 21c Kansas City, including *Champ* (2016) from her “Mostly It’s Just Uncomfortable” series, which the artist conceived as a response to the attack on Planned Parenthood; *grow clumsier still*, an embroidered, intimate portrait of a couple (2023); three works from her series, “Every Curve,” which explores the contradictory and complementary influences of Feminism and Hip-Hop; and three of Buckman’s boxing glove works from “Let Her Rave,” including *Wakeful Anguish* (2017), which comprises 18 boxing gloves and fragments of a vintage wedding dress hung on a chain.

About 21c Kansas City

21c Museum Hotel Kansas City includes a 120-room boutique hotel, contemporary art museum and The Savoy restaurant. Located between the Power & Light district and River Market in downtown Kansas City, 21c Kansas City is the ideal base to explore the City of Fountains. The property offers over 8,000 square feet of exhibition space featuring rotating, curated exhibitions of contemporary art free of charge, 7 days a week. 21c Kansas City has 19 suites including the rooftop 21c Suite with expansive views of downtown. The Savoy, led by Executive Chef Eric Michael, offers a dining experience with deep ties to the community, featuring seasonal ingredients and products from local farmers, distilleries, and family-owned vineyards. In 2023, The Savoy was named the Best Historic Restaurant in America by the Historic Hotels of America Association.

About 21c Museum Hotels

21c Museum Hotels, an award-winning hospitality company based in Louisville, Kentucky, is pushing the boundaries of both the museum and hotel worlds to create a new kind of travel experience. The company was founded as a single property by contemporary art collectors and preservationists Laura Lee Brown and Steve Wilson, whose mission was to share innovative contemporary art with the public and participate in the revitalization of downtown Louisville. The couple opened the first 21c in 2006 along downtown’s West Main Street, rehabilitating a series of 19th century warehouses to create a union of genuine hospitality, thoughtful design, and culinary creativity — all anchored by a contemporary art museum. Today, guests can enjoy eight 21c Museum Hotels in Louisville, Kentucky; Cincinnati, Ohio; Bentonville, Arkansas; Durham, North Carolina; Lexington, Kentucky; Kansas City, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois; and St. Louis, Missouri. 21c Museum Hotels is part of Ennismore, a creative hospitality company rooted in culture and community, with a global collective of entrepreneurial and founder-built brands with purpose at their heart. Formed in 2021, Ennismore is a joint venture with Accor, which holds a majority shareholding.

About the Artist

Zoë Buckman (b. 1985, Hackney, East London) is a renowned multi-disciplinary artist recognized for her work in sculpture, installation, and photography, with a focus on themes of feminism, mortality, and equality. Her notable solo exhibitions include shows at Pippy Houldsworth Gallery in London, Fort Gansevoort Gallery in New York, and Gavlak Gallery in Los Angeles, among others. Buckman's art has been featured in prominent group exhibitions at institutions such as SF MoMA, The Broad Museum, and The National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, DC. A graduate of the

International Center of Photography, she has received multiple awards including the Art Matters Grant (2017), The Art Change Maker Award (2019), and The Art and Social Impact Award (2020). Buckman's public works are visible in spaces like Times Square and on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, where her notable public sculpture "Champ" is displayed. Her works are part of permanent collections in prestigious museums including The National Portrait Gallery in London and The Institute of Contemporary Art in Miami. Buckman currently resides and works in Brooklyn, NY.



Image credit: Zoë Buckman