

JUDY CHICAGO

1939 – PRESENT

A trailblazing feminist artist who brought women's stories into art history

"I want to make art that expresses my vision of a more just and peaceful world."

– Judy Chicago



AT A GLANCE

Nationality: American
Movement: Feminist Art / Postmodernism
Speciality: Installation, painting, ceramics, textiles
Active: 1960s – present
Career: Over 60 years
Patrons: Museums, foundations, universities, collectors
Reputation: Pioneer of feminist art and a leading voice for women in art and culture



HER CONTEMPORARIES

Miriam Schapiro 1923–2015
Faith Ringgold 1930–2024
Yayoi Kusama b. 1929
Mary Kelly 1941–2012
Ana Mendieta 1948–1985
Doris Salcedo b. 1958

Chicago was part of a generation of women artists who challenged traditions and created new narratives for art.



Judy Chicago, c.2019
Photo: Donald Woodman

TIMELINE

- 1939** Born in Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 1960s** Studies and begins teaching art
- 1970** Co-founds the Feminist Art Program (FAP)
- 1974–1979** Creates *The Dinner Party*
- 1980s** International exhibitions and teaching
- 1990s–2000s** Expands themes to include birth, death and the environment
- 2021** Awarded the National Medal of Arts
- Present** Continues to create, exhibit and inspire



THE ARTIST

Judy Chicago is a pioneering feminist artist, educator and writer. She challenged the male-dominated art world by creating powerful works that celebrate women, tell hidden histories and imagine a better future.

Her most famous work, *The Dinner Party* (1974–1979), honours 39 remarkable women from history. It is a monumental installation that changed the conversation about whose stories are remembered. Chicago's art includes painting, installation, ceramics, textiles and digital media. Her themes range from women's history and spirituality to birth, death and the environment.



A SUCCESSFUL CAREER

A leading figure in the feminist art movement

The Dinner Party is one of the most important artworks of the 20th century

Exhibited internationally for over five decades

Author of many books on art, feminism and creativity

National Medal of Arts, USA (2021)



WHY HISTORY OVERLOOKED HER

- Feminist art was long dismissed as "political" rather than "serious" art.
- The art world valued men's careers and networks more.
- Large-scale, collaborative works by women were undervalued.
- Only recent scholarship has restored her rightful place in art history.

History did not deliberately erase her. Shifting priorities and gender bias pushed her into the background.



WHY HER WORK MATTERS

- Her art reclaimed women's stories and made them visible.
- She created iconic works that changed art history.
- Her vision of equality and inclusion remains urgent today.
- She continues to inspire artists, educators and activists.
- Her work invites us all to imagine a more just world.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Dinner Party took five years to create and involved hundreds of collaborators, including ceramists, embroiders and volunteers.



WHERE TO SEE HER WORK

- Brooklyn Museum, New York
- National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
- Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas
- Judy Chicago's Through the Flower Archive (online)
- Private collections worldwide



CONTEMPORARIES FOR CONTEXT

Miriam Schapiro 1923–2015
Faith Ringgold 1930–2024
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Ana Mendieta 1948–1985
Doris Salcedo b. 1958

Chicago was a leading voice among artists who expanded the possibilities of art in the late 20th century.



MASTERPIECES: SIX WORKS THAT SHOW HER GENIUS

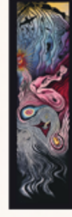
1 The Dinner Party 1974–1979
Mixed media installation



2 The Dinner Party Place Setting 1974–1979
Ceramic, porcelain, textile



3 Birth Project 1980–1985
Acrylic on canvas



4 Creation 1982–1985
Acrylic on canvas



5 The Holocaust Project: From Darkness into Light 1985–1993
Mixed media installation



6 The End: A Meditation on Death and Extinction 2012–2018
Mixed media installation



"Art has the potential to transform consciousness, to change the world, to make it a more loving, peaceful and just place."

– JUDY CHICAGO



FORGOTTEN WOMEN ARTISTS IS NOT ABOUT REWRITING HISTORY. IT IS ABOUT COMPLETING IT.