BURN IT DOWN!

BREANNE FAHS

FEMINIST MANIFESTOS FOR THE REVOLUTION
“An invaluable reminder of feminism’s radical and revolutionary visions. It’s also, to those least inclined to read it but most in need of justice. Reading it filled me with hope, inspiration, and an electric connection to the angry, dissatisfied comrades who have come before me—as well as my outraged contemporaries. This exhilarating work of love and scholarship is a rallying cry and a transformative sisterhood, you’ll find the rage that is a testament to the power we change the world.”

—SOARAYA CHEMALY, author of "Performing Sex"; "Women, Sex, Brand Feminism Out for Blood"; and "Madness and Madness"

"This book is a landmark collection spanning two volumes: a comprehensive collection of feminist manifestos, from the early 1970s to the present day. It includes a wide range of voices and perspectives, from radical collectives like the Lesbian Avengers and VNS Matrix to individual authors like Shulamith Firestone and Michelle Alexander. It’s a powerful testament to the enduring force of feminist thought and action."
“A PLACE OF ASYLUM FOR THE RECUPERATION, REGENERATION AND RE-ENGINEERING OF ESSENTIAL CROPS THAT HAVE BEEN CORRUPTED BY CAPITALIST VIRUSES AND AGRIBUSINESS GREED.”

REFUGIA: MANIFESTO FOR BECOMING AUTONOMOUS ZONES, SUBROSA, 2002

ANTICAPITALISTIC/ANARCHIST

XENOFEMINISM: A POLITICS FOR ALIENATION LABORIA CUBONIKS, 2015
I am not an identity artist just because I am a Black artist with multiple selves.

I am not grappling with notions of identity and representation in my art. I’m grappling with safety and futurity. We are beyond asking should we be in the room. We are in the room. We are also dying at a rapid pace and need a sustainable future.

We need more people, we need better environments, we need places to hide, we need Utopian demands, we need culture that loves us.

I am not asking who I am. I’m a Black woman and expansive in my Blackness and my queerness as Blackness and queerness are always already expansive. None of this is as simple as “identity and representation” outside of the colonial gaze. I reject the colonial gaze as the primary gaze. I am outside of it in the land of NOPE.
Matriarchy

Various forms of social organization throughout history, all based on the biological family unit—including clan, race, nation, etc.

Patriarchy

Based on biological division into sexes for reproduction of the species.

Sex

Caste

Extending to age and race

Based on biological division into sexes for reproduction of the species.

Class

NOMADS (Engels’ “savagery”)

Adaptation to nature

TILLERS (Engels’ “barbarism”)

Increasing control of nature

CIVILIZATION

ELITE

ARISTOCRACY

MIDDLE CLASS

LOWER CLASS

WORKING CLASS

Culture

Based on psychological division of responses for realization of the conceivable in the possible.

Technological mode (pragmatic)

Control of tool...fire...wheel...ore

Sword...alphabet

Law and government, etc.

Aesthetic mode (ideal)

Religion

Primitive art and magic...prophecy...history

Revolution

Sexual revolution

Including the reproductive household

Revolution transition

Ultimate goal

Feminist revolution

Including the reproductive household

ALSO CHILDREN AND YOUTH, OPPRESSED RACES

(Psychological division of responses for: realization of the conceivable in the possible)

State (nationalism and imperialism)

Science

Medicine

Science (applied)

Medicine

Science (pure research)

Modern art

Art for art’s sake

The dialectic of sex

Shulamith Firestone, 1970
“THE FACT THAT RACIAL POLITICS AND INDEED RACISM ARE PERVERSIVE FACTORS IN OUR LIVES DID NOT ALLOW US, AND STILL DOES NOT ALLOW MOST BLACK WOMEN, TO LOOK MORE DEEPLY INTO OUR OWN EXPERIENCES AND DEFINE THOSE THINGS THAT MAKE OUR LIVES WHAT THEY ARE AND OUR OPPRESSION SPECIFIC TO US.”

INDIGENOUS/ WOMEN OF COLOR
"social justice". It's irrelevant to the emancipation of women what happens when women free themselves from the institutions that maintain them in their oppressed state. It wasn't the responsibility of the slaves to think up, develop, experiment, and prove superior a new economic system for the South before they were emancipated, and it's not our job to figure out what happens to the races before they free themselves. And when will free the races? Who do you men about—can you expose your sadistic hostility towards your wives and mothers a little more, a little sooner, so they'll revolt quicker. I don't see why women should lose any more of their lives than they have already.

I'm assuming as I write this that I'll be reading it to liberal men. You're a real prize bunch. You quiver with horror over Vietnam because you identify your hide with the boy sent over there. You pontificate, but mostly just shake your head, over black people because you know if they get too uppity, you outnumber them nine to one, and you know that they know it. That's an extra kick. But do you get uptight about women! There are those of you who try to lay a woman to put down her protests. (I expect nervous laughter here.) Then there are those who pat her on her ass and say, "Gee, baby, it's too bad you're inferior but that's your function and I think that's great." What's great? She's great? Of course that's not what you mean. You mean it's great that it's her function to be inferior. But she can't face that so she twists it to mean that you think that she's great. And because she's the cheapest maid going and sleeps in your bed, you let it go—more or less. We all know how uncomfortable it is to be around disgruntled maids nowadays, and as for hostile sex, what other kind is there?

Oh yes, sex. Your kind. The kind you wanted me to titillate you with by speaking here tonight. What could be more amusing than a Feminist talking about sex? Obviously, if Feminism has any logic in it at all, it must be working for a sexless society. But sex you want? Sex you're going to get.

Vaginal orgasm is an excellent illustration of the way men oppress and exploit women. It's ironic that you insist men and women respond the same in the one place no one can deny men and women.
“WE ARE THE VIRUS OF THE NEW WORLD DISORDER RUPTURING THE SYMBOLIC FROM WITHIN SABOTEURS OF BIG DADDY MAINFRAME”
the WHY CHEAP ART? manifesto

PEOPLE have been THINKING too long that
ART is a PRIVILEGE of the MUSEUMS & the
RICH. ART IS NOT BUSINESS!
It does not belong to banks & fancy investors
ART IS FOOD. You cant EAT it BUT it FEEDS
you. ART has to be CHEAP & available to
EVERYBODY. It needs to be EVERYWHERE
because it is the INSIDE of the
WORLD.

ART SOOTHES WAR!
Art wakes up sleepers!
ART FIGHTS AGAINST WAR & STUPIDITY!
ART SINGS Hallelujah!
ART IS FOR KITCHENS!

ART IS LIKE GOOD BREAD
Art is like green trees!
Art is like white clouds in blue sky!

ART IS CHEAP!

Bread & Puppet Glover, Vermont, 1984
“BITCHES REFUSE TO SERVE, HONOR OR OBEY ANYONE. THEY DEMAND TO BE FULLY FUNCTIONING HUMAN BEINGS, NOT JUST SHADOWS. THEY WANT TO BE BOTH FEMALE AND HUMAN”
"An invaluable reminder of feminism’s radical politics / history is Professor of Women’s Studies Breanne Fahs of Arizona State University. She has published widely in feminist, social science, and gender studies; authored five books: Out for Blood; Rage Becomes Her: The Making of a Radical Sisterhood, you’ll find the Dyke Manifesto. Since the late 1960s, Breanne Fahs argues that we need more fire and provocations—has always been central to feminism, and it’s the testa and brawn we need now. Burn It Down! Manifestos from Around the World, Feminist Empowerment Products, Breanne Fahs is a rallying cry and a confrontation—micelle tea, literary companion for the ages.

In an age of platitudes and Etsy-fied feminism, I—Michèle Tea, author of Burn It Down! and Redstockings, the black lives matter, the gay liberation front, the Combahee River Collective, and the Lesbian Avengers, this exhilarating work of love and scholarship. This book is a fiery reminder that the world does not change, but we change the world."

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A COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION
OF FEMINIST MANIFESTOS,
CHRONICLING RAGE & DREAMS
FROM THE NINETEENTH
CENTURY TO THE PRESENT DAY

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—SORAYA CHEMALY,
author of Rage Becomes Her

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