

*In 21st Century Zesterhood* is a collaborative project by graphic designers Alexandra Falagara & Brita Lindvall Leitmann, curator Karolina Pahlén and artist duo Sisters of Jam.

In August 2015 we started researching and documenting the archives of the Woman's Building in Los Angeles—the first independent separatist and feminist cultural institution in the world, founded in 1973 by graphic designer Sheila Levrant de Bretteville, artist Judy Chicago and art historian Arlene Raven and operating until 1991. Drawing on some of the feminist actions and methods that came before us, our project is in dialogue with and exchanges with contemporary feminist networks and groups working within the fields of design and art, in Sweden, Los Angeles and hopefully more cities and countries in the future.

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Lynn W., Jane T., Barbara M., unknown, Kathy A., about to throw paint on a billboard.



Cover of *Womanspace Journal*, vol. 1, no. 1, 1973. *Womanspace Journal* was published by Womanspace Gallery.

About to throw paint on a billboard.  
View from this side



Sheila Levrant de Bretteville.

**New Symbols, New Standards**

The artists who came to the Woman's Building were struggling to find their way in a strongly male-dominated field. The following quotes are from 'Becoming Conscious', a text about the Woman's Building by Cheryl Zurilgen, published in *Everywoman*, vol. 2, no. 7, May 7, 1971.

"We started with very little. We had no idea what we needed. Our entire personality structure had been trained to orient itself around the needs of others, children and men, to be 'good girls'...Most of us had said that we wanted to be artists in order to get into the class, but none of us really understood what it meant to be an artist or what we had to do to become one."