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Group Exhibition *Nasty Women* at Gavlak Los Angeles Explores the Output of Female-Identified Artists Throughout Art History at a Critical Juncture for Women's Rights

October 31, 2020 – December 12, 2020



(L to R): Lisa Anne Auerbach, *Karma is a Nasty Woman*, 2020. Wool. 12 x 12 in. Courtesy of the artist and GAVLAK Los Angeles / Palm Beach. Karen Carson, *Power Mad*, 2011. Acrylic on unstretched canvas. 61.5 x 73 in. Courtesy of the artist and GAVLAK Los Angeles / Palm Beach.

**Los Angeles, CA (October 16, 2020)** – GAVLAK Los Angeles is pleased to present *Nasty Women*, a sprawling group exhibition opening October 31, 2020 and on view until December 12, 2020. Situated amongst two separate historical moments, *Nasty Women* commemorates the one-hundredth anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment's ratification, guaranteeing women's suffrage in the United States. Including works by **Candida Alvarez, Lisa Anne Auerbach, Delia Brown, Karen Carson, Gisela Colón, Jenny Holzer, Ebony Patterson** and **Trulee Hall**, the exhibition will also coincide with the 2020 presidential election and act as a defiant gesture of solidarity amongst LGBTQ+ and women artists who feel their rights may be under threat due to the loss of Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

As the exhibition title reclaims the infamous phrase once uttered by the current president in 2016, *Nasty Women* seeks to uplift communities underrepresented in contemporary art and American visual culture at large. By appropriating "nasty women" to be all-inclusive, the exhibition celebrates, recognizes and gives a platform to a diverse array of perspectives and female voices throughout art history. The exhibited works will span from the Italian Renaissance to our current moment,

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drawing parallels between past and present narratives while disrupting the art historical canon.

Key historical pieces featured in the exhibition are works created by both known and anonymous “old mistresses,” or female artists excluded from a male-dominated art history canon, despite their formal talent and prolific output. Amongst these works are a pastel portrait by 18<sup>th</sup>-century Scottish artist **Catherine Read** and an anonymous self-portrait of a woman from the Italian Renaissance. The anonymity of such artists—often attributed to negligent record-keeping based on gender—is essential to this exhibition’s theme of reclamation of nomenclature. Perhaps, unknown “old mistress” artists would be included in the history of art if the old masters and patriarchal structure had viewed them as equal artists.

*Nasty Women* opens on the eve of the presidential election and what we hope is the aftermath of a presidency that views the voices presented in this exhibition as disposable yet threatening. The series of works presented harnesses this power, moving against political oppression, state violence and towards celebrating self-expression. Intersecting with another key political moment, *Nasty Women* is dedicated to the memory of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

In tandem with the artworks presented in the exhibition, an interactive reading room, following all health and safety guidelines and curated by Sarah Gavlak, will be situated at the center of the gallery. Available literature and essays will span critical feminist theory, art history, politics and philosophy. These texts—similar to the artworks included in *Nasty Women*—will encompass a range of voices and perspectives, with authors ranging from Linda Nochlin to Legacy Russell.

## **ABOUT GAVLAK GALLERY**

**GAVLAK** is an internationally recognized contemporary art gallery with locations in Palm Beach, Florida and Los Angeles, California. Founded by Sarah Gavlak in 2005, the gallery represents over twenty acclaimed artists, primarily focusing on the representation of women, LGBTQ + and artists of color. After recognizing a lack of local gallery presence in Palm Beach, Sarah Gavlak opened the first contemporary art gallery on the island over 15 years ago. She founded her eponymous gallery with the goal of championing female and LGTBQ + artists, and over the last two decades has staged highly conceptual and pioneering exhibitions, which include early solo presentations by Marilyn Minter, Betty Tompkins, and Wade Guyton. In 2014, she expanded her footprint and opened a 5,000 square

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foot space in Hollywood, and recently took on representation for artists Candida Alvarez, Karen Carson, Gisela Colon, Kim Dacres, and Beverly Fishman. Gallery artists regularly present solo exhibitions at museums and participate in seasonal institutional shows including the Whitney and Hammer Biennials. Museum acquisitions include the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, FL; The Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia, PA; The Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA; Tate Modern, London, UK; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA. Since opening in 2005, GAVLAK has regularly frequented international art fairs including Art Basel Miami, Miami, FL; The Armory Show, New York, NY; EXPO Chicago, Chicago, IL; Independent, New York, NY; Independent, Brussels, BE; Dallas Art Fair, Dallas, TX. This past year, GAVLAK relocated again, on both coasts, moving the signature flagship gallery into a new suite at The Royal Poinciana Plaza on Palm Beach, and moving out of Hollywood and into Downtown Los Angeles burgeoning arts district on Santa Fe Avenue.

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