

# Women in the museum: gender inequality in art



Name:

Date:




## Introduction

In this worksheet, you will look at the inequalities between men and women in art.

"Do Women Have To Be Naked To Get Into the Met. Museum?"

Source: [Tate](#).

Author: Guerrilla Girls

 **Have you ever heard of the Guerilla Girls? Describe your first thoughts about this quote.**

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## Note for the teacher

For a more vivid introduction, it would be useful to show a picture of the poster of the Guerrilla Girls or to get the learners to research the poster themselves as part of the following tasks.



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 Find out more about the “Guerrilla Girls” in this video.



**Youtube: In Focus: Guerrilla Girls**

To watch the youtube video just scan the QR code.

 Mark the correct answer with a cross.

**What was the primary reason the Guerrilla Girls began their activism in the art world?**

- They wanted to promote abstract art.
- They noticed that nearly all opportunities were going to white men.
- They aimed to reduce the prices of artworks.

**How did the Guerrilla Girls aim to make their message more impactful?**

- By creating large sculptures.  By organizing art auctions.
- By using provocative headlines, humor, and statistics.

**What was the immediate public reaction when the Guerrilla Girls started putting up their posters?**

- People ignored the posters.  People tore down the posters.
- People wanted to talk to them.

**According to the Guerrilla Girls, what has art become an instrument of?**

- Environmental activism.  Capitalism and investment.  Public education.

**Why do the Guerrilla Girls believe museums are changing their ways?**

- Museums are focusing solely on modern art.  Museums are reducing entry fees.
- Museums are starting to show more women and artists of color.

**What criticism do the Guerrilla Girls have about the current practices of showing more diverse artists?**

- Artists are not being compensated fairly.
- The same artists are shown repeatedly instead of a broader history.
- Only abstract art is being featured.

**What is the Guerrilla Girls' perspective on the authority of museums today?**

- Museums should only display classical art.
- People don't have to accept everything in a museum.
- Museums are the ultimate authority on art.

**What did the Guerrilla Girls say about the need for the National Museum of Women in the Arts?**

- They should only feature contemporary art.
- They are unnecessary in today's world.
- Until we don't need them, we need them.

**What is the Guerrilla Girls' view on the diversity of culture?**

- Only traditional art forms should be valued.
- We have an amazing creative diverse culture.
- Culture should be homogeneous.

**What advice do the Guerrilla Girls give about approaching art?**

- Avoid questioning the art displayed in museums.
- Only appreciate art from famous artists.
- Be critical of the system but open to the art.

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## The Gender Pay Gap and the Unequal Representation of Female Artists in Art

The underrepresentation of female artists in the art world is closely linked to the Gender Pay Gap. This term refers to the systematic disparity in earnings between men and women, which significantly impacts female artists' careers and opportunities. Despite the increasing number of women pursuing artistic professions, they continue to earn less than their male counterparts.

This wage disparity has profound effects on the visibility and recognition of female artists. Lower earnings often lead to fewer resources for creating and promoting their work, resulting in reduced exhibition opportunities. The art market, historically dominated by male networks and decision-makers, perpetuates this imbalance. Consequently, works by male artists are more frequently showcased in prestigious galleries, museums, and international art fairs, while female artists struggle to gain similar exposure.


The financial inequity extends beyond immediate earnings. Lower incomes limit female artists' ability to invest in their careers, secure studio spaces, and purchase materials. This economic disadvantage hinders their artistic development and market presence, creating a cycle of underrepresentation and undervaluation. The Gender Pay Gap, therefore, remains a critical factor in the ongoing struggle for equal recognition and representation of female artists in the art world.

 **Explain how the causes in the text lead to inequalities between men and women in art.**

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 **Can you think of any other reasons for the inequalities between men and women in art? Write down your thoughts.**

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📌 The Guerilla Girls published their work in 1989. Is it different today?

📌 Research how many women are exhibiting in famous museums today, such as the Tate Museum in London or the Louvre in Paris.

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📌 What could your own artistic work look like that addresses the problem? Use the free space to collect ideas in a mind map.