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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: **COMING TO POWER: 25 Years of Sexually X-Plicit Art By Women**

DATES: May 1 - June 12

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-6:00

Sexual imagery created by and for women has a recent but powerful history. "Coming To Power" pays homage to the first generation of women artists who pioneered a new artistic genre in the mid 60s and early 70s using explicit sexual imagery. Artists such as **Louise Bourgeois, Carolee Schneemann, Hannah Wilke** and **Nancy Spero** appropriated this tradition and transformed it into an expression of female freedom and identity. "Coming to Power" also presents the work of a younger generation of female artists. In contrast to the previous generation's more politicized work, the intended impact of the younger artists' work is to elicit sexual excitement as well as express autonomous pleasure, passion and pain. Together both generations engage in a dialogue previously dominated by men and disallowed to women by the taboos in society.

The exhibition creates both the historical context for female erotic work, and a contemporary forum for further sexual art by women. We have therefore chosen to include special event evenings devoted to film, video and performance with practitioners such as **Annie Sprinkle, Trash, Lynda Benglis, Cicciolina, Candida Royalle** and many others.

Jan Avgikos, Liz Kotz, Linda Nochlin and **Lorraine O'Grady** are writing historical and critical essays relating specifically to this exhibition.

This exhibition and related events have been curated by artist Ellen Cantor. "Coming to Power" has been sponsored by Simon Watson and the Contemporary in conjunction with David Zwirner.

Participating Artists:

Louise Bourgeois	Nancy Spero	Yoko Ono	Zoe Leonard
Alice Neel	Cindy Sherman	Nan Goldin	Lynda Benglis
Hannah Wilke	Marilyn Minter	Nicole Eisenman	Lutz Bacher
Ellen Cantor	G.B. Jones	Joan Semmel	Monica Majoli
Mary Beth Edelson	Nancy Grossman	Joyce Kozloff	Nancy Fried
Doris Kloster	Carolee Schneemann	Lorraine O'Grady	Patricia Cronin
Judith Bernstein	Pnina Jalon		

Film/Video/Performances: co-curated by Ellen Cantor, Maria Beatty, M.M. Serra, and Julie Tolentino of the Clit Club.

La Cicciolina	Candida Royalle	Yoko Ono	Lynda Benglis
Pat Hearn	Azian Nerudin	Barbara Hammer	
Annie Sprinkle	Carolee Schneemann	Trash	and others