

Inequality in the art world



female nude from Ingres with a gorilla mask

On the 27th of April, we went to the Tate Modern. We were strolling through the gallery when a certain quote on a picture caught my attention.

I have never thought about inequality in the art world until I saw the poster from the Guerrilla Girls. The Guerrilla Girls are feminist activist artists who wear gorilla masks in public. They fight discrimination and support human rights for all people and genders. They started highlighting sexual and racial inequality in the arts in 1985. Their most famous poster features the female nude from Ingres's *Grande Odalisque*, wearing a gorilla mask with the quote "Do women have to be

naked to get into the Met. Museum? Less than 5% of the artists in the Modern Art Sections are women, but 85% of the nudes are female." next to it.

Even though women make up a majority of art students, only 17% of the artists in the Tate Modern are women. Women created only 8% of the public art in central London.

A reason why sexism might have developed in the art world is that the art industry was about serving the appetites of the wealthy, mostly men. Women haven't been taken seriously in general for a very long time. In some parts they still aren't. So why would art be an exception?

Even though things have gotten a lot better since the mid-80s, it's still not easy. Some think female artists get fewer opportunities because they are less aggressive about promoting themselves and they should lean in to improve things. But why on earth do women have to be more aggressive and lean in more to achieve the same things men do without having to put in extra effort?

It is said that women have to work 22 percent harder to compete at the same level as men. The statistics for African-American women and Latinas are even worse.

I think art shouldn't be 'picked' by gender. Nothing ever should. Everyone should have the same possibility to have a genuine shot.



the Guerrilla Girls

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