

SUZANNE LACY

SILVER ACTION



News Post-The Crystal Quilt, 1987

Participatory Action,
Sunday 3 February 2013
Tate Modern, London

OPEN CALL

What do you believe in? What do you stand for? What are you willing to take action on? How could you make the world a better place? What is a woman's role in public life?

WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE?

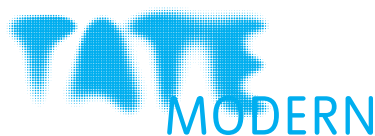
Women aged near or beyond 60 from all communities.

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

If you or someone you know is interested in taking part, or for more information please contact action.lacy@tate.org.uk

Tate Modern is looking for [women aged near or beyond 60 from all communities](#) to take part in an exciting new work by the artist [Suzanne Lacy](#).

Silver Action is a temporary participatory action by the artist Suzanne Lacy that references Britain's history of political activism to position older women as contemporary actors in the public sphere. Hundreds of women will gather in the The Tanks at Tate Modern in an action connecting histories and activists.



SILVER ACTION

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS:

- No previous experience in the arts, performance or activism needed
- The action will be documented by film and photography
- This is a voluntary position
- You need to commit to participate in this action on Sunday 3 February 2013 from 10.00–17.00 (exact times tbc nearer the date)
- You may be required to attend one meeting at Tate Modern in the week prior to the action

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

In this new work, UK women are positioned within the context of local and national histories of key social and political movements of the 1960's, 70's and 80's. *The Housewives Register* (1960), *the Ford Machinists Strike* (1968), the demonstration at the *Miss World Competition* (1970), *The Grunwick Dispute* (1976-8), *The Women's Aid Federation of Northern Ireland* (1978), the formation of the *Southall Black Sisters* (1979), the *Greenham Common* encampment (1981-2000) and organising by wives of *The Miner's Strike* (1984) – among many other actions – demonstrate women's importance in transforming the contemporary social and political landscape in the last half of the 20th Century. The commonalities in these histories and their agendas are not represented in the public imaginary, yet they do exist; embodied in the relationships, memories, archives and current activism of older women.

Silver Action brings together current themes in social and political discourse: ageing, activism, social media and the role of personal commitment in shaping the public agenda. It involves a collaboratively sourced timeline of women's activism during the past fifty years, including personal stories and experiences and an action in The Tanks at Tate Modern on Sunday 3 February.

As this project articulates activist histories of British women, many of whom are now near or beyond sixty and facing a new set of challenges, it offers a hopeful metaphor of inclusion and social relevance.

For more information about the artist Suzanne Lacy, you can visit the current installation in [The Tanks at Tate Modern](#) (on until 20 January 2013) or listen to the interview on [BBC Radio 4, Woman's Hour in July 2012](#) in which Suzanne Lacy talks about an earlier performance with older women, *The Crystal Quilt*, 1987.

Tate Modern is an art gallery situated on London's Bankside, housing the UK's collection of International modern and contemporary art from 1900 to the present day and hosting special exhibitions and events.

Interested in taking part?
Please contact action.lacy@tate.org.uk