

Lorraine O'Grady Reflects On Growing Up In Boston, Black Art, Feminism And Family

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A Conversation with Lorraine O'Grady

It makes sense that one of Lorraine O'Grady's recent exhibitions was entitled "Speaking Out of Turn." For it was O'Grady who staged a series of performance intrusions in New York galleries in 1980 with her seminal work **"Mlle Bourgeoise Noire."** O'Grady wore a debutante-style gown made of 180 pairs of white gloves as she promenaded through the galleries, whipping herself with long cat o nine tail reeds decorated with white chrysanthemums. She walked shouting, "That's enough ... black art must take more risks!" From that moment on Lorraine O'Grady forged her risk-taking career which includes writings, performances, collages and photos.

O'Grady is experiencing a resurgence of popularity and critical acclaim. In 2017 she received the Alumnae Achievement Award from Wellesley College and has a solo show now at the **Museum of Fine Arts, Boston** entitled **"Lorraine O'Grady: Family Gained."**

Guest:

Lorraine O'Grady is a Boston-born, New York-based conceptual and performance artist, 2014 recipient of the College Art Association's Distinguished Feminist Award, **2017 recipient of the Alumnae Achievement Award** from Wellesley College. Her exhibit

"Lorraine O'Grady: Family Gained" is on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston now through December 2nd.

Callie Crossley is a **2013 recipient of the Alumnae Achievement Award** from Wellesley College and is a sitting member of the Wellesley Board of Trustees.