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JOAN SEMMEL

Born 1932, New York

Lives and works in New York and East Hampton, NY

EDUCATION

MFA, 1972, Pratt Institute, New York

BFA, 1963, Pratt Institute, New York

Diploma, 1952, Cooper Union Art School, New York

SELECTED ONE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Joan Semmel: In the Flesh*, The Jewish Museum, New York
- 2024 *Joan Semmel: An Other View*, Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, Belgium
- 2023 *Joan Semmel: Against the Wall*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York
- 2022 *Joan Semmel: Skin in the Game*, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Joan Semmel: Recent Work, Morán Morán, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2021 *Joan Semmel: Skin in the Game*, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia
Joan Semmel: A Balancing Act, Alexander Gray Associates, Germantown, NY
Joan Semmel: A Balancing Act, Alexander Gray Associates, New York
- 2019 *Joan Semmel: A Necessary Elaboration*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York
- 2016 *Joan Semmel: New Work*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York
- 2015 *Joan Semmel: Across Five Decades*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York
- 2013 *Joan Semmel*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York
Joan Semmel—A Lucid Eye, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, NY
- 2011 *Joan Semmel*, Alexander Gray Associates, New York
- 2003 Mitchell Algus Gallery, New York
- 2000 *The Mannequin Series: Recent Work by Joan Semmel*, Jersey City Museum, NJ
- 1999 *Joan Semmel: Self Images*, Mitchell Algus Gallery, New York

1998 *Joan Semmel*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, NY

1993 *Through the Object's Eye: Paintings by Joan Semmel*, Pratt Manhattan Gallery, New York
An Other View, Bypass Gallery, New York

1992 *Through the Object's Eye: Paintings by Joan Semmel*, University Art Gallery, State University of New York, Albany
Through the Object's Eye: Paintings by Joan Semmel, Schick Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
Through the Object's Eye: Paintings by Joan Semmel, Tyler Art Gallery, State University of New York, Oswego
The Works of Joan Semmel, Newcomb Gallery, University of Virginia, Richmond

1991 *Selves: Joan Semmel*, Greenville County Museum of Art, SC

1989 *Joan Semmel: Recent Work*, East Hampton Center for Contemporary Art, NY

1987 *A Selection*, Gruenebaum Gallery, New York

1986 University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO

1984 Douglass College Women's Series, New Brunswick, NJ
112 Greene Street, New York

1981 Douglass College Women's Series, New Brunswick, NJ
Lerner-Heller Gallery, New York

1980 *Joan Semmel*, Sharadin Gallery, Kutztown State College, PA
Joan Semmel, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA
Joan Semmel, Myers Fine Arts Gallery, State University of New York, Plattsburgh

1979 Lerner-Heller Gallery, New York

1978 Jorgensen Museum, University of Connecticut, Storrs
Joan Semmel: Recent Paintings, Lerner-Heller Gallery, New York

1977 Lerner-Heller Gallery, New York
Joan Semmel: 1977, Pelham Von Stoffler Gallery, Houston, TX

1975 Lerner-Heller Gallery, New York

1973 141 Prince St. Gallery, New York

1969 Juana Mordo Gallery, Madrid

1968 Bonino Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Museum of Plastic Arts, Montevideo, Uruguay
Ateneo de Madrid, Spain

1966 *Joan Semmel*, Ateneo de Madrid, Spain

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture*, Pérez Art Museum Miami, FL

Making Their Mark: Works from the Shah Garg Collection, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.

Gray! Art on Aging, Museum van Bommel van Dam, Venlo, The Netherlands

2025 *The Woman Question 1550-2025*, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, Poland

Flesh Flowers, Aïshti Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon

Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR

Sixties Surreal, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

Making Their Mark: Works from the Shah Garg Collection, Kemper Art Museum, Washington University in St. Louis, MO

Giant Women on New York, James Fuentes, New York

Erotic City, Eric Firestone Gallery, New York

Visions of the World, Museum Kampa, Prague, Czech Republic

Woman in a Rowboat, Olivia Foundation, Mexico City, Mexico

2024 *Ordinary People: Photorealism and the Work of Art since 1968*, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA

Get in the Game: Arts, Sports, Culture, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA

Making Their Mark: Works from the Shah Garg Collection, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, CA

Mother Lode: Material and Memory, James Cohan, New York

The Inside Out, Kunstmuseum Schloss Derneburg, Hall Art Foundation, Germany

2023 *Making Their Mark: Works from the Shah Garg Collection*, Shah Garg Foundation, New York

Can You See Me Now? Painting the Aging Body, Ryan Lee, New York

Capturing the Moment, Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom

Full and Pure: Body, Materiality, Gender, Green Family Art Foundation, Dallas, TX

It's Pablo-matic: Picasso According To Hannah Gadsby, Brooklyn Museum, NY

Hardcore, Sadie Coles HQ, London

2022 *An Expanded Portrait: Works from the Permanent Collection*, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY

Dark Light: Realism in the Age of Post-Truths, Aïshti Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon

Paintings in New York: 1971-83, Karma, New York

HANGING/LEANING: Women Artists on Long Island, 1960s-80s, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, NY

Women Painting Women, The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, TX

2021 *La Reina Blanca*, Museu d'Art Contemporani d'Eivissa, Ibiza, Spain

and I will wear you in my heart of heart, The FLAG Art Foundation, New York

2020 *i'm yours: Encounters with Art in Our Times*, Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, MA

Never Done: 100 Years of Women in Politics and Beyond, The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

ID: Formations of the Self, Shirley Fiterman Art Center, New York

Transitional Positions, Galerie St. Etienne, New York

2019 *Women Artists on the Leading Edge: Celebrating Douglass College at 100*, Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ
Please Recall to Me Everything You Have Thought Of, Morán Morán, Los Angeles
Go Figure!, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, NY
Drawn Together Again, The FLAG Art Foundation, New York
A Woman Looking at Men Looking at Women, Muzeum Susch, Switzerland

2018 *My Silences Had Not Protected Me*, Fort Gansevoort, New York
Super Bodies, Anita Shapolsky Gallery, New York
Women.Now, Austrian Cultural Forum, New York
Half the Picture: A Feminist Look at the Collection, Brooklyn Museum, NY
Land & Sea & Sky, MM Fine Art, Southampton, NY
IN THE CUT- The Male Body in Feminist Art, Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken, Germany
Go Figure, Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH
Scenes from the Collection, The Jewish Museum, New York

2017 *Aging Pride*, Österreichische Galerie Belvedere, Vienna, Austria
Secret Garden: A Group Exhibition, Untitled Space, New York
Painting the Visible World: American Woman Realists, Bernaducci Meisel Gallery, New York
Hope and Hazard: A Comedy of Eros, curated by Eric Fischl, Hall Art Foundation, Reading, VT

2016 *Olympia*, Galerie Patrick Seguin, Paris, France
Coming to Power-25 Years of Xplicit Art By Women, Maccarone Gallery, New York
The Female Gaze, Part II: Women Look at Men, Cheim & Read Gallery, New York
Skins: Body as Matter and Process, Garth Greenan Gallery, New York
Human Interest: Portraits from the Whitney's Collection, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Black Sheep Feminism: The Art of Sexual Politics, Dallas Contemporary, TX

2015 *Selfies and Portraits of the East End*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, NY

2014 *Robert Gober: The Heart is Not a Metaphor*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Femfolio, Gallery 112, Scripps College, Claremont, CA
The Avant-Garde Collection, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA
Expanding the Field of Painting, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston
Face Value: Portraiture in the Age of Abstraction, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.

2013 *Skin Trade*, curated by Larry List and Martha Wilson, PPOW Gallery, New York
Sie. Selbst. Nackt. Paula Modersohn-Becker Museum, Bremen, Germany

2012 *History, Painting*, Alexander Gray Associates at Art Basel Miami Beach, Art Kabinett, FL
Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York
Pairings: the Collection at 50, curated by Dan Cameron, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA
Remix: A Fresh Look At Our Modern And Contemporary Art Collections, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA

Disrobed, Allan Stone Gallery, New York

2011 *Glee*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles

Teasers: Selected Works From the Pizzuti Collection by Women Artists, The Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH

2010 *Pavers*, Schroeder, Romero & Shredder, New York

Shifting The Gaze, The Jewish Museum, New York

Looks Good on Paper, DFN Gallery, New York

Real(ists), Ringling College of Art and Design, Sarasota, FL

2009 *Rebelle*, Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Arnhem, The Netherlands

The Female Gaze, Cheim & Read, New York

New Acquisitions, Guild Hall Museum, Easthampton, NY

2008 *Solitaire: Lee Lozano, Sylvia Mangold Plimack, Joan Semmel*, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH; Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

2007 *Wack!: Art and the Feminist Revolution*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.; MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY; Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada

Dangerous Beauty, The Chelsea Art Museum, New York; Palazzo Delle Arti, Naples, Italy

The Naked Portrait, The National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh; Compton Verney, Warwickshire, England; American University Galleries, Washington, D.C.

Singularity in the Communal Tide, Pierro Gallery, South Orange, NJ

All The More Real: Portrayals of Intimacy and Empathy, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY

Aspects of Realism, Jason McCoy Gallery, New York

2006 *America/America*, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX

How American Women Artists Invented Postmodernism: 1970-1975, Mason Gross School of the Arts Galleries, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Invitational Exhibition of Contemporary American Art, The National Academy Museum, New York

Bearings: The Female Figure, P.S. 122, New York

Splash, ACA Gallery, New York

Why the Nude? Contemporary Approaches, The Art Student's League, New York

2005 *Upstarts & Matriarchs*, Mizel Arts Center, Denver, CO

2004 *NYC*, DFN Gallery, New York

2003 *Woman On Woman*, The White Box, New York

Counterparts: the Self-portraiture of Joan Semmel and John Coplans, The Berry Art Galleries, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah

Through the Looking Glass: Women and Self-Representation in Contemporary Art, Palmer Museum of Art, University Park, PA

Transgressive Women: Yayoi Kusama, Lee Lozano, Ana Mendieta, and Joan Semmel, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX

2002 *Personal and Political*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, NY

2001 *Acquisitions 1999-2000*, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY
To Be A Mirror, curated by Jonathan Lasker, Eugene Binder, Long Island City, NY

2000 *The Figure: The Other Side of Modernism*, curated by Lily Wei, Newhouse Center of Contemporary Art, Snug Harbor, NY
International Armory Show, New York
DFN Gallery, New York
Five Artists, 31 Grand, Brooklyn, NY

1999 *Anni Albers, Robert Beck, Cady Noland, Joan Semmel, Nancy Shaver*, curated by Robert Gober, Matthew Marks Gallery, New York
International Armory Show, New York
Treatment: Women's Bodies, Dinnerware Gallery, Tucson, AZ

1997 *Women, Women, Women: Artists, Objects, Icons*, Greenville County Museum of Art, SC

1996 *Sexual Politics*, Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles

1994 *New Jersey Arts Annual*, New Jersey State Museum, Trenton

1993 *Coming to Power*, David Zwirner Gallery, New York
Songs of Retribution, Richard Anderson Gallery, New York
Self-Portrait: The Changing Self, New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, Summit

1992 *Narrative Paintings*, Vered Gallery, East Hampton, NY

1991 *Designing Women*, Douglass College, New Brunswick, NJ

1990 *At The Water's Edge*, Tampa Museum of Art, FL; Naharn Contemporary, New York; Virginia Beach Center for the Arts, VA
Gender and Representation, Zoller Gallery, University of Pennsylvania, University Park

1989 *Lines of Vision: Drawings by Contemporary Women*, Hillwood Art Gallery, Long Island University, Brookville, NY; Blum Helman Gallery, Warehouse Space, New York; Murray State University, KY; Grand Rapids Art Museum, MI; University Art Gallery, University of North Texas, Denton; Richard F. Brush Gallery, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY; University of Oklahoma, Museum of Art, Norman
Drawings from the Figure, East Hampton Center for Contemporary Art, NY

1988 *Contemporary Nudes*, One Penn Plaza, New York
Just Like A Woman, Greenville County Museum of Art, NC

1987 *New York, New Venue*, Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC
Self-Portraits: The Message, The Material, Schick Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY; Emily Lowe Gallery, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

1986 *Guerilla Girls Exhibition*, The Palladium, New York

1985 *Variations On A Theme: Figurative Painting*, Brainard Art Gallery, State University of New York, Potsdam
Contemporary Figure Drawing, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, MN

1984 The Greenville County Museum of Art, SC

1983 *Portraits*, Concord Gallery, New York

20 Outstanding Alumni, Pratt Invitational, New York

1982 *The Erotic Art Show*, Washington Women's Art Center, Washington, D.C.

1981 *Heresies Benefit*, Grey Art Gallery, New York University, NY
Exchanges III, Henry Street Settlement, New York

1980 *Thirty Years of American Figure Painting*, Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA
Contemporary Naturalism, Nassau County Museum, Roslyn, NY
Renderings of the Modern Woman, University of Hartford, CT

1979 *Feministische Kunst Internationaal*, Haags Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, The Netherlands; De Oosterpoort, Groningen, The Netherlands; Noordbrabants Museum, Den Bosch, The Netherlands; De Vleeshal, Middelburg, The Netherlands; De Vest, Alkmaar, The Netherlands; De Beyerd, Breda, The Netherlands; Nijmeegs Museum, Nijmegen, The Netherlands
New Acquisitions, Newport Beach Museum, CA

1978 *Drawing Today-Aspects of Change*, Heckscher Museum, Huntington, NY

1977 *Contemporary Women: Content and Consciousness*, Brooklyn Museum, NY
Nothing But Nudes, The Whitney Museum, Downtown Branch, New York

1976 *A Patriotic Show*, Lerner Heller Gallery, New York

1975 *The Year of the Woman*, Bronx County Museum of the Arts, NY
Soho Visual Arts Center, New York
A Change of View, Larry Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT

1974 *Contemporary Reflections*, Larry Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT
Realisms, Douglas Drake Gallery, Kansas City, MO

1969 Concurso Nacional, Madrid, Spain
Juana Mordo Gallery, Madrid, Spain

1966 Museum of Modern Art, Barcelona, Spain

SELECTED PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Art Institute of Chicago, IL
Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas, Austin
Brooklyn Museum, NY
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA
Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA
Dallas Museum of Art, TX
Douglass College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Greenville County Museum, SC
The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston
The Jewish Museum, New York
The Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, NE
Museu d'art Contemporani d'Eivissa, Spain

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
Museum of Fine Art, Houston, TX
The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Museum of Plastic Arts, Montevideo, Uruguay
National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.
New Jersey State Museum of Art, Trenton
Olivia Foundation, CDMX, Mexico
Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA
Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia
Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH
Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken, Germany
State University of New York, Albany
Sweet Briar College Museum, VA
Tate, London, United Kingdom
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY
Whitney Museum of American Art, New York

GRANTS / AWARDS

- 2014 Selected as a National Academician of the National Academy Museum
- 2013 Women's Caucus for Art Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2008 Anonymous Was A Woman
- 1996 Richard Florsheim Art Fund Grant
- 1985 National Endowment for the Arts Grant
- 1985 Distinguished Alumnus Award, Cooper Union
- 1980 Yaddo Residency
- 1980 National Endowment for the Arts Grant
- 1977 Macdowell Colony Residency
- 1975 Educational Professional Development Act Grant
- 1975 Creative Artists Public Service Program Grant

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- "Aged to Perfection: Joan Semmel's new work on the older female body." *The Art Newspaper*, September 9, 2016.

Alfaro, J. R. "La pintora Norteamericana Joan Semmel y el expresionismo de Ribera Berenguer." *Informaciones*, January 26, 1965.

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Als, Hilton, Connie Choi, Elizabeth Hess, Lucy R. Lippard, and Ivy Shapiro. *Painting in New York 1971-83*. Exh. cat. New York, NY: Karma Books, 2023.

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"Appreciating Our Own Aging Bodies Through Joan Semmel's Self-Portraits." *Next Tribe*, December 14, 2021.

"Art of the Erotic." *KCW Today*, March 12, 2018.

"Artists for Gender Equality: Past." *Artsy*, November 14, 2017.

Aton, Francesca. "Five Must-See Gallery Shows in Chelsea During Armory Week." *ARTnews*, September 5, 2023.

Bankowsky, Jack. "Best of the 90s." *Artforum*, December 1999, p. 29.

Bass, Ruth. "Joan Semmel at Lerner-Heller." *Art News*, January 1980, p. 172.

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Belcove, Julie L. "Sex and the Art of Radical Feminism: Once blacklisted for exploring sexual imagery, these artists are making a comeback at the Frieze art fair." *The Financial Times*, September 29, 2017.

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Bigman, Fran. "Artful Volumes." *Bookforum*, September/October/November 2021.

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"Black Sheep Feminism' at Dallas Contemporary." *ARTNews*, February 20, 2016.

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Braff, Phyllis. "Affirming Vibrant Freedom of Method." *The New York Times*, May 31, 1998.

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Campoy, A. M. "Critica de Exposiciones." *ABC Madrid*, July 4, 1969.

Carlozzi, Annette DiMeo. "Joan Semmel." *American Art Since 1900*. Austin: Blanton Museum of Art, 2005, pp. 268-9.

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Carrigan, Margaret. "Work of the Week: Joan Semmel's 'Hold Tight.'" *Artnet News*, February 20, 2024.

Carter, Grace. "Joan Semmel's 'An Other View': The Aging Female Body and the Subversion of the Cult of Youth." *The Female Body*, August 15, 2024.

Castro, Jan Garden. 'Joan Semmel "In the Flesh" at the Jewish Museum.' *Whitehot Magazine*, December 20, 2025.

Chavarri, E. L. "Exposiciones de Joan Semmel y L. Mora Cirujeda." *Los Provincias*, February 18, 1970.

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_____. "Examining The Art of Feminism As it First Took Shape." *The New York Times*, March 9, 2007, p. E 33.

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Escalante-de Mattei, Shanti. "A Gallery Show Casts a Rare, Caring Gaze on the Aging Cisgender Female." *Artnet News*, October 17, 2023.

Fateman, Johanna. "Our Critics Have Your February Guide to Art on the Upper East Side." *Cultured Magazine*, January 28, 2026.

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Farago, Jason. "Aging Pride' Challenges the Cult of Youth." *The New York Times*, February 8, 2018.

Fateman, Johanna. "Joan Semmel." *The New Yorker*, May 2021.

Fisher, Simon. "Joan Semmel Subverts Stereotypes with Her Own Body." *Ocula*, April 23, 2024.

Frame, Alan. "Pure Percepción, Joan Semmel." *Fahrenheit Arte Contemporaneo*, December–January 2007, p. 40 F.

Freire, Maria. "Universo de Moduado Color." *Montevideo Accion*, July 29, 1968.

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Gutman, Leon. "Pinturas de Joan Semmel in Buenos Aires." *La Capital*, August 20, 1968.

Haddad, Natalie. "The Giant Women Who Stomped on Art World Invisibility." *Hyperallergic*, April 14, 2025.

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Heartney, Eleanor. "Joan Semmel." *Art In America*, December 1993, pp. 102-103.

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Heinrich, Will. "Women Win at the Art Show." *The New York Times*, February 27, 2019.

Henry, Gerrit. "Joan Semmel at 112 Greene Street." *Art In America*, November 1984.

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Hirsh, Linda Blaker. "Woman's Humanity to Woman." *Hartford Advocate*, October 15, 1980.

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