

# GEORGETOWN

C O L L E G E

*Live. Learn. Believe.*

Linda Stein  
a.k.a. Have Art: Will Travel! Inc.  
100 Reade Street  
New York, NY 10013

September 11, 2011

Dear Linda et al,

I am pleased to write a letter of support both in terms of your work and your recent exhibition at Georgetown College. The Art Galleries at Georgetown College, an historically-Baptist liberal arts college, exhibited your work "The Fluidity of Gender: Sculpture by Linda Stein" from March 3 through April 14, 2011. The opening reception from 5-7 pm was enhanced by a body-swapping performance by art majors Meghan Pate and Shawn McPeek and a gallery talk on Thursday evening (5:30-6:30). In addition, you offered an informal discussion on Friday morning.

Your visit was particularly timely, in conjunction with Women's History Month. However, your message transcends a single month on the calendar. The themes that emerge from your work – strength and woman as well as the encouragement of gender justice that might (we hope!) lead to social change – are messages that are important for young people to hear. Your sculpture – the wearable art featuring gladiator-type warriors as well as Wonder Woman forms – stood as if they were monoliths in the gallery space. Their large forms, embedded with found objects and numerous materials, piqued curiosity. They were ponderable, interesting, stunning, overwhelming, exciting, inviting, and fantastic all at once. Alone, they were worthy of exhibition.

It was through your gallery talk and the Friday "unplugged" chat session that the community began to connect, truly, the ideas of gender and (in)justice. Students and others felt empowered as they heard your comments and, then, responded to the questions that you asked them about their own lives and their feelings of and about gender. Students clearly learned about your life, art, and ideas and connected with your message. How do I know this? As chair, I am often the recipient of complaints about and some praise of our gallery and departmental programs and exhibitions. This is part of the challenge of overseeing departmental curriculum as well as three exhibition venues and more than 50 events in a single year. We have *had nothing but positive* comments come from your visit. These range from students saying you are "cool" and other surface comments to deeper remarks that disclose the ways in which students were intrigued by your sculptures and your ideas as well as your mission. They were actively thinking about your work and some, even, were spurred to action. The commingling of the visual and verbal resonated with our "under 25" audience as well as the more-than-two-dozen community members who attended these events and were equally engaged and supportive of this exhibition.

Please check out the GCVA blog links below. This is our department-run blog that offer photos and comments relating to our department happenings and curriculum: <http://gcva.blogspot.com/2011/03/linda-stein-was-here.html> and <http://gcva.blogspot.com/2011/03/speaking-of-feminism-and-art.html>

Perhaps most telling is the post I made to our blog after your visit: "Great photos to remember one of the highlights of our Spring semester. The students and faculty are still talking about your visit and, especially, our "unplugged" chat session on Friday morning. We send a huge shout out to Linda -- you're welcome to visit us anytime!" (March 9, 2011). I stand behind this comment and sincerely hope you'll visit us again.

All best wishes!  
  
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