

**MEDIA ALERT**

# Hannah Wilke: Art for Life's Sake

Sep 4, 2020–Feb 7, 2021

## What

The Pulitzer Arts Foundation is organizing the first major presentation in over ten years of the work of the pioneering American artist Hannah Wilke (1940–1993). This career-spanning exhibition will encompass Wilke's prolific practice from the 1960s to her untimely death in 1993, bringing together works on paper, photography, and video, as well as numerous examples of her diverse sculptures in clay, latex, and other non-traditional materials. Collectively, these works will showcase Wilke as a trailblazer who was equally invested in advancing the role of women in society as she was in developing a unique artistic practice.

One of the foremost artists to emerge in the 1960s, Hannah Wilke stands as a pivotal figure in postwar American art for her role in furthering dialogues around art and feminism. One of her most significant contributions was the development of a uniquely feminist iconography that references female anatomy, which had been long excluded from the canon. Wilke's distinctive and daring work—formally inventive and conceptually rigorous—pushed against prevailing attitudes towards gender and sexuality while also reflecting on our shared human condition. She brought to these subjects a witty and irreverent critique.

*Hannah Wilke: Art for Life's Sake* will include both iconic and rarely shown work, in which Wilke synthesized, and at times challenged, a variety of influences, including Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Minimalism, and Conceptual Art. With some 70 objects installed in loosely chronological sections, the exhibition will shed new light on Wilke's formal, iconographic, and material innovations, offering new perspectives on this critical and influential figure.

## When

**September 4, 2020–February 7, 2021**

Thursday through Sunday 10am–5pm; evening hours until 8pm on Friday.

## Where

Pulitzer Arts Foundation

3716 Washington Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63108

## Catalogue

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue.

## Organization

Organized by the Pulitzer Arts Foundation, *Hannah Wilke: Art for Life's Sake* is curated by Pulitzer Curator Tamara H. Schenkenberg.

## Admission

Free

## About the Pulitzer

The Pulitzer Arts Foundation provides dynamic experiences with contemporary and historic art presented in dialogue with its celebrated Tadao Ando building. Since its founding in 2001, the museum has organized a range of exhibitions featuring art from around the world, exploring a diverse array of ideas and inspiring new perspectives. Highlights have included the exhibitions *Ruth Asawa: Life's Work* (2018-19); *Blue Black*, a group show curated by artist Glenn Ligon (2017); *Medardo Rosso: Experiments in Light and Form* (2016-17); *raumlaborberlin: 4562 Enright Avenue* (2016); *Reflections of the Buddha* (2011-12); *Urban Alchemy / Gordon Matta-Clark* (2009-10); and *Brancusi and Serra in Dialogue* (2005). These exhibitions are complemented by programs that bring together leading figures from the fields of art, architecture, design, urban planning, and others.

A place for contemplation and exchange that brings art and people together, the Pulitzer is located in the Grand Center Arts District of St. Louis, Missouri. Admission to the museum is always free.

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## MEDIA CONTACTS

National:

**Ennis O'Brien**

Lucy O'Brien: [lucy@ennisobrien.com](mailto:lucy@ennisobrien.com) | +1 973-879-4037

Betsy Ennis: [betsy@ennisobrien.com](mailto:betsy@ennisobrien.com) | +1 917-783-6553

St. Louis:

Katie Hasler Peissig: [khasler@pulitzerarts.org](mailto:khasler@pulitzerarts.org) | +1 314-754-1850 ext. 235