

Jessica Brit Ingle

*Reframing Texas Art: Women Photographers in the Lone Star State*

Fine art scholarship in the United States has long been centered on the coasts, particularly in New York City. However, in the wake of postmodernism and feminist theory, scholars in the last decade have begun to explore the rich history of art in Texas. Notwithstanding this recent development, women, people of color, and non-European immigrant artists are notably absent or ineffectually considered in Texas art historical scholarship. There is also a serious lack of engagement with mediums outside of painting and sculpture, to include minimal attention given to photography. These deficiencies in existing scholarship are due in large part to traditional art historical methodologies as well as the historical interpretation known as Texas exceptionalism. *Reframing Texas Art: Women Photographers in the Lone Star State* will rectify some of these holes in scholarship by focusing exclusively on female Texas photographers. It will survey and examine the practitioners who have had the greatest impact on Texas culture and, more specifically, photography. Ultimately, this dissertation seeks to address the lack of representation for female artists in scholarly texts by evaluating the exclusionary nature of traditional art historical methods and developing a new approach with which to analyze women photographers in Texas and beyond.