

# *Old Girl in a Tutu*

Susan Rennie Disrupts Art History

IAMBE LLC presents

## **Old Girl in a Tutu** **Susan Rennie Disrupts Art History**

**A film by Cheri Gaulke**

**2024 TRT: 8:03**

**Contact:**

**Cheri Gaulke**

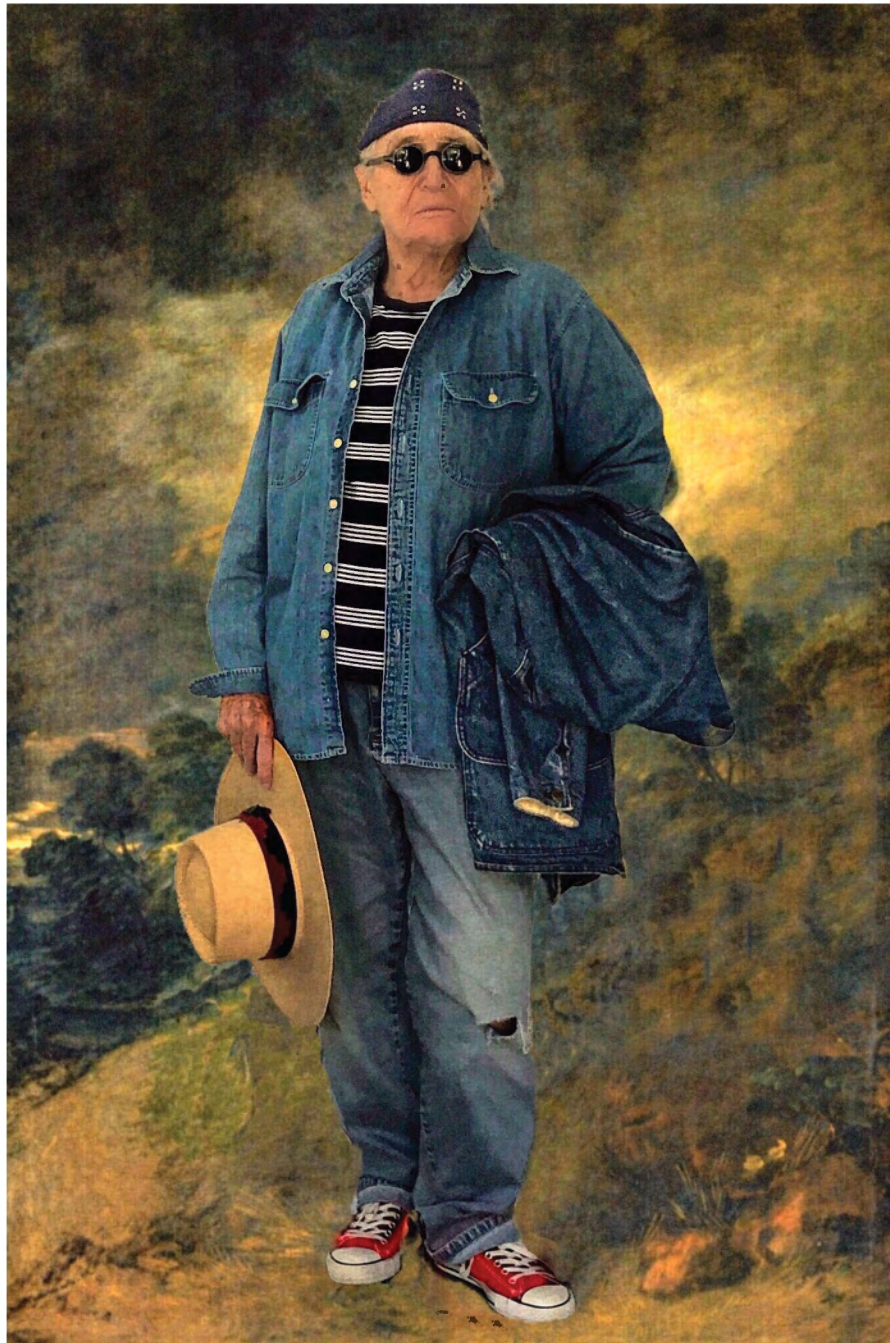
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**Visit our website:**

**[oldgirlinatutu.com](http://oldgirlinatutu.com)**



Being Blue with Gainesborough

## Synopsis

Feminist scholar, Susan Rennie, seizes her iPhone and sneaks her queer, octogenarian body into master works of art, disrupting the narrative of the male gaze.

This 8-minute film focuses on a gallery showcase of Susan Rennie's delightful art with unfiltered commentary from the artist, as well as words from exhibition curator Kirsten Grimstad.

When Rennie retired from academia, she returned to her first love – photography. With humor and wit, Rennie's photographic interventions offer a feminist critique of the conventional canon of art history, and an unabashed embrace of her elder, queer identity. The results are juicy, eye-opening, and often hilarious.

Writer/Director/Producer/Editor Cheri Gaulke has created an entertaining journey into the mind of an elder, queer artist through a whirlwind of images and ideas.

## Fun Facts

Susan's art is created entirely using her iPhone and iPad. Gaulke and guest cinematographers Knox Bronson and David Leibowitz also used iPhones to film the interviews, art opening, and behind-the-scenes.

Our team has a long history of creating feminist projects that raise awareness within dominant culture. Kirsten Grimstad and Susan Rennie are the co-editors of a seminal survey of Second Wave feminist efforts, *The New Woman's Survival Catalog* (Berkeley Publishing Company, 1973), and *The New Woman's Survival Sourcebook* (Knopf, 1975). They went on to co-found *Chrysalis: A Magazine of Women's Culture*, published out of the Woman's Building in downtown Los Angeles from 1977-1981. Gaulke, Maberry, Lumbard, Rennie and Grimstad first met at the Woman's Building in the 1970s.

# Credits

A film by Cheri Gaulke

Featuring Dr. Susan Rennie, artist  
With Kirsten Grimstad, exhibition curator

Written, directed, edited, produced Cheri Gaulke  
Co-writer Sue Maberry

Exhibition producers Paula Lumbard and Donna Deitch

Filmed on an iPhone by Cheri Gaulke  
Additional iPhonography Knox Bronson & David Leibowitz

Venus animation C. Lily Ericsson

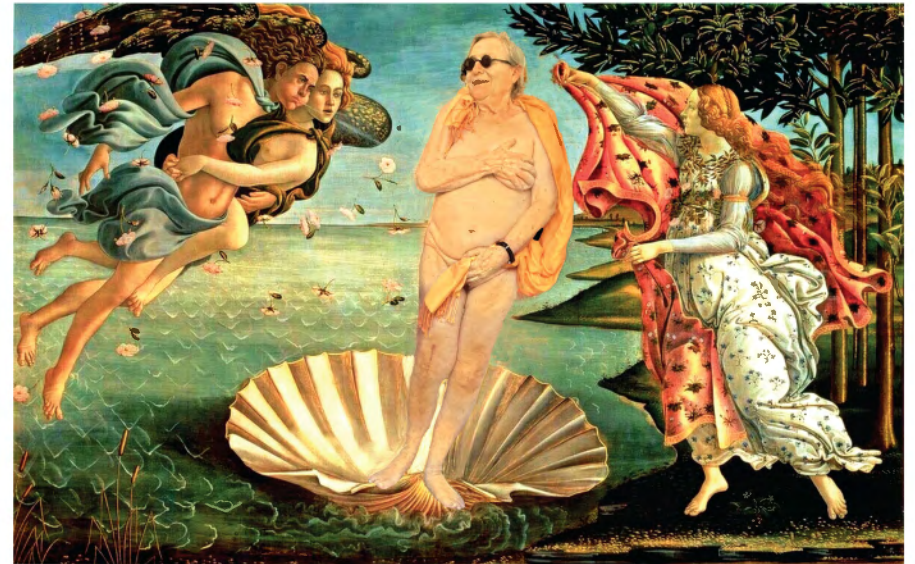
## Music

*Celestial Soda Pop* by Ray Lynch  
From the album: *Deep Breakfast*  
*Her Knees Deep in Your Mind* by Ray Lynch  
*Venus* by Shocking Blue

All images via Creative Commons and courtesy of Susan Rennie

Supervising sound editor/re-recording mixer  
Jeremy Grody, Sound Logic Post

Filmed at Durón Gallery at SPARC (Social Public Resource Center) in Venice, California



Birthing with Venus



Film still of Susan Rennie



Film still of Kirsten Grimstad



## Director: Cheri Gaulke

Director, Producer, Writer, Editor: Cheri Gaulke is a pioneer in the feminist art movement in Los Angeles and an award-winning filmmaker whose films have screened in film festivals internationally.

Gaulke's work has been presented at the Museum of Modern Art (NY), the Museum of Contemporary Art (LA), in a Smithsonian-touring exhibition, and in settings all over the world including buses, churches, and prehistoric temples. Gaulke has received artist fellowships from National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, City of Los Angeles, California Community Foundation, and California Humanities.

Recent films: *Gloria's Call* about women and surrealism (40 film festivals; Best Documentary, Ann Arbor Film Festival; 2022 Venice Biennale); *Miss Alma Thomas: A Life in Color* about an under-recognized African-American artist (for a museum retrospective); and *Inside the Beauty Bubble* about a gay hair salon owner (50 festivals; Audience Awards at San Luis Obispo Film Festival and Dances with Films). She is currently in post-production on her first feature documentary, *Acting Like Women*, about feminist performance art and the Woman's Building in 1970s-80s Los Angeles. For more information: [cherigaulke.com](http://cherigaulke.com), [actinglikewomen.com](http://actinglikewomen.com)



## Subjects: Susan Rennie and Kirsten Grimstad

Susan Rennie (right) was born in South Africa. She earned a BA from Barnard College and received a Ph.D. in Political Philosophy from Columbia University. She taught Social Sciences at Union Institute & University, worked as a women's health activist, and lives in Venice, California. Learn more about Susan's photography at [camerarennie.com](http://camerarennie.com).

Kirsten Grimstad (left) was born in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the Union Institute & University (Cincinnati) after receiving a BA at Barnard College and an MA at Columbia University. She is past Chair of the Getty Villa Council and recently retired as Co-Chair of Undergraduate Studies at Antioch University, Los Angeles. Her research centers on German literature and public memory about the Holocaust, and she is the author of *The Modern Revival of Gnosticism and Thomas Mann's Doktor Faustus* (Camden House, 2002).



## Co-Writers: Sue Maberry and Cheri Gaulke

Sue Maberry (left) is a co-writer of *Old Girl in a Tutu*. She and Gaulke met in 1976 at the Woman's Building, a public center for women's culture in Los Angeles. Maberry has a long career as a graphic designer and arts administrator at the Woman's Building and The Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena. After receiving a graduate degree in library science she became the Director of the Millard Sheets Library at Otis College of Art and Design until her retirement.

Maberry and Gaulke have collaborated in all things from life (they are married and have twin daughters) to art and film. They strive to make visible that which is often unseen or misunderstood in dominant culture – lesbian and gay families through gallery installations, books, and videos, and the lives of artists through short documentary films. Maberry is a co-writer of *Miss Alma Thomas: A Life in Color* and a co-producer of *Gloria's Call*.

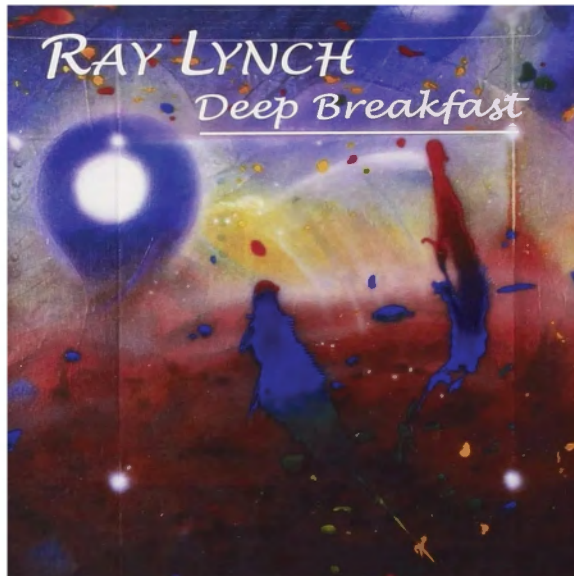


## Exhibition Producers: Paula Lombard and Donna Deitch

Paula Lombard (right) is the producer of the exhibition *Subverting the Male Gaze: Susan Rennie* at the Durón Gallery, Social and Public Art Resources Center, Venice, California, June 17-July 8, 2023.

Lombard is the founder of FootageBank, a provider of stock film footage in Marina del Rey, California. Over the years she has exhibited as an artist as well as curated a variety of gallery exhibitions. Paula first met Susan Rennie in 1978 when Susan became her academic supervisor in the Feminist Studio Workshop in Los Angeles, but they did not begin dating until 1987. They married in 2014.

The exhibition was co-produced by Donna Deitch (center). Donna Deitch is an American film and television director, producer, screenwriter, and actor best known for her 1985 film *Desert Hearts*. The movie was the first feature film to "de-sensationalize lesbianism" by presenting a lesbian romance story with positive and respectful themes (Wikipedia). In 1976, Deitch co-founded SPARC, Social and Public Resource Center, in Venice, California.



### Music: Ray Lynch

As a composer and producer Ray Lynch has won 3 Billboard Awards, written five albums, and sold over 2 million albums without the benefit of live performances or videos.

The effervescent Celestial Soda Pop is the musical theme in *Old Girl in a Tutu* that embodies the joy of Rennie's art. It is from Lynch's second album *Deep Breakfast* which became a classic and the first independently released album to be certified Gold and then later Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (R.I.A.A.). *Deep Breakfast* won Lynch Billboard's Award for Artist of the Year for his genre. Also in the film is the haunting melody of *Her Knees Deep in Your Mind* which was re-released on Lynch's latest album *Ray Lynch Best Of*.

Lynch retains ownership of his copyrights, Master and Publishing rights. We are grateful to them for licensing Ray Lynch's beautiful music for our film's festival run.

©Ray Lynch Productions 1984/1994 BMI



### Music: Shocking Blue

*Venus* is a song by Dutch rock band Shocking Blue, released as a single in the Netherlands in the summer of 1969. Written by Robbie van Leeuwen with lead vocals performed by Mariska Veres, the song topped the charts in nine countries. We are grateful to Robbie van Leeuwen, Red Bullet Productions, and Nanada Music/Dayglow for licensing this song for festival use.

### Supervising Sound Editor/Re-recording Mixer

Jeremy Grody, Sound Logic Post. With over 20 years of industry experience, Jeremy Grody has sound supervised and mixed more than 80 feature length films, and 100 plus episodes of prime time television shows. Credits include Sean Baker's *Tangerine* and highly acclaimed documentaries *After Parkland*, *The S Word*, *The Invisible War*, *Kusama*, and *A Plastic Ocean*.

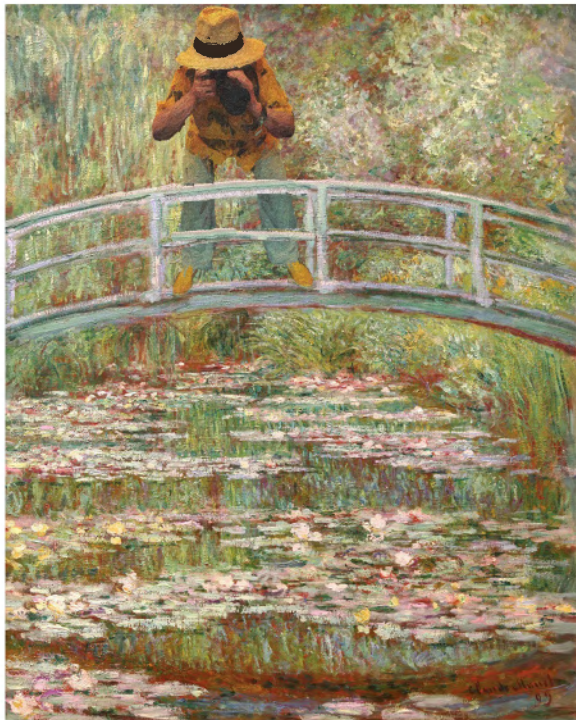
### Venus Animation

C. Lily Ericsson is an artist and designer with an MFA in Experimental Animation from CalArts. She and Gaulke have worked together extensively in The Righteous Conversations Project which brings Holocaust survivors and teens together to create award-winning media projects.

## Susan Rennie's Art



Liberty Leading with Delacroix



At Giverney with Monet



Lounging with Goya



At the Barre with Degas



Mothering with Whistler



Down on the Farm with Grant Wood



Gracing with Raphael