

Anne Marsh

May, 1983

The paper discusses the politicization of the avant-garde following the development of political art groups in New York. It looks at the activist groups of the early seventies and the move into more theoretical structures.

" By spring 1976, the meetings had grown more specifically political and much attention was being given to the subject of socialism." (Nancy Marmer "Art and Politics '77, Art in America July 1977, p.64)

The reasons behind alternative networking and the ideology inherent in its development are presented. The paper follows splits and fragmentation of the groups and the development of a separate women's art movement in America.

The organization of women artists in Australia began with Lucy Lippard's first visit. The ideology of the women's movement, as a wider structure and the diversity of feminism within the women's art movement is analysed.

" The fundamental conflict is not primarily one between men and women but between the world views of people who participate in feminist vision and the traditional world views of the society in which they work and live." (Press Release from the Los Angeles Women's Building 1976.)

Finally, the concept of a women's art movement is discussed in relation to the developments of an alternative structure in the art world.