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Exhibition webpage: <https://bit.ly/2Ruyb5x>

“She [Black Mountain College] was born in controversy and died in controversy, splendid in the between, as she inspired and shattered dreams of liberation and fulfillment. She lay on her side as the hills did across from Lake Eden, female in form. She hooted with the owls, and sat at peace with whatever her fate was to be.” - **M.C. Richards**, *Black Mountain College: a personal view of creativity*

Asheville, NC (November 27, 2019) – [Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center](#) (BMCM+AC) is pleased to announce the Winter/Spring 2020 exhibition **Question Everything! The Women of Black Mountain College**, opening January 24th.

This exhibition will celebrate the work and impact of the women associated with Black Mountain College, featuring borrowed works alongside pieces from the BMCM+AC collection by a wide-ranging group of artists. Highlights will include the never-before-exhibited films of **Hazel Larsen Archer** and her students, showing daily life at Black Mountain College; textiles and prints by **Anni Albers**; a selection of woven wire sculptures and paper folded work by **Ruth Asawa**; an **Elaine de Kooning** work on paper; newly acquired additions to BMCM+AC's permanent collection from Abstract Expressionists **Pat Passlof** and **Jo Sandman**; and the first public showing of **Faith Murray Britton's** 1942 mural on the Studies Building art room door.

Now is a timely moment for highlighting the stories of the women who made their way to Black Mountain College. The range of issues these women faced—fleeing their homes as refugees, establishing their voices as artists, navigating the gaze of powerful men, and finding their queer identities—are pervasive in new and complex ways today. *Question Everything!* will draw from their words to explore how these women, coming of age in the midst of modernism, made spaces for themselves and forever altered the landscape of art and culture in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Question Everything! The Women of Black Mountain College
Curated by Kate Averett and Alice Sebrell

In the midst of modernism, when the foundations of culture were under question, prompted by war and global crises, women were able to make space for themselves in mediums, movements, and institutions where previously there was little or none. Black Mountain College (1933-1957) was a place where women could explore their identities as artists and individuals, where women were expected to question things, to think critically, and to explore their own self-determinacy. The freedom to succeed or fail on one's own terms could be a liberating and life-changing experience or one fraught with self-doubt. Black Mountain College fostered a new generation who went forward with a strong sense of what it meant to be a woman in the 20th century, forging new paths for themselves and those who followed in their footsteps.

From January 24 through April 25, 2020, BMCM+AC will highlight their voices through the exhibition *Question Everything! The Women of Black Mountain College*. This will be an expansive survey taking place across our upper and lower-level galleries. The exhibition is designed to offer a high-fidelity glimpse into the lives of the women students and faculty of Black Mountain College, with a focus on how they represent their ideas and experiences through their own voices, whether written, heard, or depicted through artwork.

Select programming features a new composition by **Bana Haffar**, based upon the weavings and philosophy of Anni Albers, performed by **Haffar** and **Third Coast Percussion**; a collage workshop with landmark feminist artist **Connie Bostic**; a presentation by BMC scholar **David Silver**, "When the College was Female"; a community panel discussion that will explore identity, individuality, and what it means to be an artist in our ever-evolving cultural climate, presented by **Culture Club**; and a closing reception with writer and Black Mountain College alumna **Martha King** who will be giving a reading and sharing recollections of her time at BMC.

Special thanks to: The Britton family, Camp Rockmont for Boys, Connie Bostic, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Katherine French, Suzi Gablik, Lorrie Goulet, Rhea Keller, Hudson + Terry Lanier, Rebecca Lowell, The Milton Resnick and Pat Passlof Foundation, Donna Marie Perkins, Reynolda House Museum of American Art, Jo Sandman, Susan Rhew Design, Eric Steineger, Tarleton Walmsley, Western Regional Archives, and Erika Zarow.



Image Credits: Ruth Asawa, *Untitled S.529 (Wall-Mounted Paperfold with Horizontal Stripes)*, ca. 1970s. Ink and paper, 13 ¾ x 26 ½ x 1 ½ inches. Private collection. | Nell Goldsmith, self-portrait at Studies Building, ca. 1943 -1944. Digital scan from color slide. Western Regional Archives Black Mountain College Project Collection. | Bottom, Left to Right: Anni Albers, *Red Meander*, 1969. Serigraph, edition 10/50. Frame: 31 1/4 x 263/4 in. Image: 20 x 161/2 in. On loan from Reynolda House Museum of American Art. | M.C. Richards, *Hambridge Raku Pot*, 1979, ceramic. 11 x 11 x 11 inches. Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center Permanent Collection, gift of the Estate of Jonathan Williams. | Susan Weil, *Musical Chairs*, 1995. Acrylic on paper, 18 x 18 inches. Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center Permanent Collection.