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Unearthed Classics and Reinvented Forms: The Best Art of 2009

Lynda Benglis/Robert Morris: 1973–1974: Susan Inglett Gallery



[Photograph by Arthur Gordon], Artforum Advertisement: [Artforum Piece], 1974. Double page spread from offset printed magazine (Artforum (New York) vol. 13, no. 3 (November 1974), pp. 3-4), 10 3/4? by 12 1/2?. Courtesy: Susan Inglett Gallery, NYC

Saying she felt “underrepresented in the male-run artistic community,” the then 33-year-old Lynda Benglis took an ad out in the November 1974 issue of *Artforum* Magazine: A color picture of her naked, wearing sunglasses, holding a long double-headed dildo between her legs. The rest is art history. Five *Artforum* editors wrote a letter telling the art world how offended they were by the “extreme vulgarity,” while late art historian Robert Rosenblum wrote, “... give three dildos and a Pandora’s Box to Ms. Lynda Benglis, who finally brought out of the closet the Sons and Daughters of the Founding Fathers of the *Artforum* Committee of Public Decency and Ladies Etiquette.” This show tracked that brouhaha in scrumptious, hypocrisy-revealing detail.