

Standing Slightly Outside: Franklin Furnace, 1976—2026

The Rudin Family Gallery

See more of this exhibition in the Devitre Lounge at BAM's Peter Jay Sharp Building (30 Lafayette Ave).

1970s

- 1 Claire Fergusson**
Reduced Loose Leaf Notebook Sheet
1972
8.5 × 11in, mixed media on paper
Claire Fergusson was one of two artists who inaugurated Franklin Furnace on April 3, 1976, with its first art exhibition.
- 2 Karen Shaw**
 - A** *Additional Meanings*, 1976
1-99, mixed media
 - B** *Summantics*, 1992
advertisement, mixed mediaAlong with Claire Fergusson, Karen Shaw inaugurated Franklin Furnace with its first art exhibition on April 3, 1976.
- 3 Martine Aballéa**
Dream Readings (performance)
June 11, 1976
This was the first performance held at Franklin Furnace.
- 4 Vito Acconci**
Venice Belongs to Us
November 16, 1976
Performance at Franklin Furnace
- 5 Laurie Anderson**
Artists Reading
May 3, 1977
Performance at Franklin Furnace
- 6 Dan Graham**
Performance with Drums and Television
December 13, 1977
Performance at Franklin Furnace
- 7 John Cage**
You Will Only Make Matters Worse
– *Writing for the Second Time*
Through Finnegans Wake
January 10, 1978
Performance at Franklin Furnace
- 8 Jenny Holzer**
Truisms
Opened on December 12, 1978
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
- 9 Eleanor Antin**
100 Boots: the Transmission and Reception
Opened on April 1, 1978
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace

- 10 DISBAND**
April 24, 1979
Performance at Franklin Furnace
- 11 Nigel Rolfe**
December 6, 1979
Performance at Franklin Furnace

1980s

- 12 Eric Bogosian**
Men Inside
February 5, 1981
Performance at Franklin Furnace
- 13 Krzysztof Wodiczko**
Projections
April 15—25, 1981
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
- 14 Ana Mendieta**
Body Tracks
April 8, 1982
Performance at Franklin Furnace
- 15 Artists' Books from Mexico**
Opened on May 26, 1982
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
- 16 Tehching Hsieh**
One Year Performance 1981—1982
February 16—March 12, 1983
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
- 17 Barbara Kruger**
Artists' Use of Language, Part I
January 5—February 5, 1983
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
- 18 Lorraine O'Grady**
Fly by Night
February 10, 1983
Performance at Franklin Furnace
- 19 Louise Lawler**
A Movie Will Be Shown Without the Picture
April 3, 1983
Presented by Lawrence Weiner and Franklin Furnace. Screened at Bleecker St. Cinema.
- 20 Rachel Rosenthal**
Traps
November 3, 1983
Performance at Franklin Furnace

- 21 Carnival Knowledge**
The Second Coming
January 6—February 4, 1984
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
Carnival Knowledge was met with protests from right-wing politicians and religious groups.
- 22 Mona Hatoum**
Variation on Discord and Division
November 29, 1984
Performance at Franklin Furnace
- 23 Holly Hughes**
World Without End
October 4, 1989
Performance at Franklin Furnace
Holly Hughes was one of the so-called NEA Four who had their grants rescinded, which Franklin Furnace fought to have reinstated.
- 24 John Fleck**
I Got The He-Be-She-Be's
Recipient of Franklin Furnace FUND for Performance Art. John Fleck was one of the NEA Four who had their grants rescinded.

1990s

- 25 Karen Finley**
A Woman's Life Isn't Worth Much
May 18—June 16, 1990
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
Karen Finley's exhibition was specifically targeted by right-wing politicians and religious organizations. She was one of the NEA Four.
- 26 Franklin Furnace Fights for First Amendment Rights, benefit**
July 11, 1990
This benefit was in response to Franklin Furnace's closure by the New York City Fire Department for being an "illegal social club". Franklin Furnace was then targeted for presenting Karen Finley's exhibition *A Woman's Life Isn't Worth Much* (1990), by Republicans including Senator Jesse Helms. This led to audits by the Internal Revenue Service and rescinding of NEA grants to Finley, John Fleck, Tim Miller and Holly Hughes.
- 27** March 6, 1990 letter from Senator Jesse Helms to Charles Bowsher, Comptroller General of the General Accounting Office (GAO), asking for an inquiry into NEA-funded grants, including those of the Franklin Furnace.
- 28** Martha Wilson's response (undated, 1990) to Senator Helms's inquiry request and subsequent telephone call received by Wilson from the GAO.

- 29** July 13, 1990 letter from NEA General Counsel Julianne Davis asking for additional supporting materials—including its performance art and installation programming—for its Visual Arts funding application within 30 days or risk rejection of the application.
- 30** Vacate Order (dated August 31, 1990) from the Fire Commissioner of the New York City Fire Department, demanding the Furnace to vacate its basement performance space.
- 31 Erika Rothenberg**
1991
Poster design for Franklin Furnace in *Exile* performance series
- 32 Andrea Fraser**
May I Help You? An Exhibition in Cooperation with Allan McCollum
January 12—February 2, 1991
Performance/exhibition at American Fine Arts, Colin de Land Fine Art, funded by Franklin Furnace FUND for Performance Art
- 33 Pope.L**
How Much Is That Nigger in the Window a.k.a. Tompkins Square Crawl
Opened on June 1, 1991
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
- 34 Shirin Neshat**
Unveiling
April 2—May 1, 1992
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
- 35 Too Shocking to Show**
June 21, 1992
Benefit poster, Franklin Furnace at The Brooklyn Museum
- 36 Micki Watanabe**
Sweating Liquids
Opened on December 16, 1994
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
- 37 DYKE ACTION MACHINE**
Lesbian Americans, Don't Sell Out
ND
- 38 Tehching Hsieh**
Dec 31 1986 – 1999 Dec 31
Ended on January 1, 2000
Performance at Franklin Furnace
- 39 Jack Waters**
Superschmoozio: The Game of the International Art Market, 2000
Performance. This trailblazing work exists as an online game, one of first works of its kind that explored the internet and virtuality as sites for artistic expression.

2000s...

- 40 Wooloo Productions**
AsylumNYC
April 24—26, 2006
Exhibition at White Box, NYC
Franklin Furnace FUND for Performance Art
- 41 Maya Ciarrocchi & Kris Grey**
Gender/Power Composition IV
April 3, 2016
performance and workshop at JACK, NYC
Franklin Furnace FUND for Performance Art
- 42 Ayana Evans**
Sugar on My Shit
July 29, 2017
Performance. Franklin Furnace FUND for Performance Art. The performance was part of Art in Odd Places (AIOP), an annual performance festival on the length of 14th Street, NYC.
- 43 Carlos Martiel**
Continent
November 27, 2017
Performance held at Y Gallery
Franklin Furnace FUND for Performance Art

Artworks

- 44 elin o'Hara slavick**
A Wall of Incoherent Dresses
Opened on December 1, 1992
Exhibition at Franklin Furnace
- A** *I Want My Mother's Tongue*, 1992
Girl's dress, embroidery
- B** *In The Womb I Have No Shame*, 1992
Girl's dress, embroidery
- C** *I Refused The Hysterectomy Of My Desire*, 1992
Woman's dress, embroidery
- D** *Silence Is Complicit*, 1992
Girl's dress, embroidery
- 45 Sara Kaplan**
Rug (Portrait of Martha Wilson), 2022
Photo by Sara Kaplan
- 46 Erika Rothenberg**
AMERICA, A SHINING BEACON TO THE WORLD, 2025
Signboard

- 47 CRASH and FREEDOM**
untitled, 1983
One of four paintings made to promote the *Cubist Prints/Cubist Books* exhibition, held at Franklin Furnace, October 15—December 3, 1983

Videos

- 48 DISBAND**
The End, 1979
B&W video with audio
1min 31sec

- 49 Patty Chang**
Fan Dance, 2003
HD video with audio
6min 45sec
- 50 Ricardo Miranda Zúñiga**
The Public Broadcast Cart, 2004
HD video with audio, 5min 14sec
Franklin Furnace FUND for Performance Art
- 51 Heather Cassils**
Hard Times, 2010
HD video with audio, excerpt, 3min 40sec
Franklin Furnace FUND for Performance Art
- 52 Koloto Siraji**
Nabbuzana, 2024
HD video with audio, 4min 26sec
Franklin Furnace FUND for Performance Art
- 53 Dread Scott**
Money to Burn, 2010
HD video with audio, 3min 27sec
Franklin Furnace FUND for Performance Art

Martha Wilson

- 54 Martha Wilson & Steven Watson**
Artifacts, 2025
HD video with audio
31 min, 39 sec
- 55 Martha Wilson**
Barbara Bush, 2005
- 56 Martha Wilson**
Nancy Reagan, 1984
- 57 Martha Wilson**
Nancy Reagan
ND
- 58 Martha Wilson**
Tipper Gore, 1993



Pre-order Martha Wilson's forthcoming book *Back to the Present: Fifty Years of Free Expression with Franklin Furnace* (Princeton Architectural Press, Fall 2026) for \$20!

(50% off the \$40 retail price). Valid through December 31, 2025.

CURATED BY RAUL ZAMUDIO
AND PATRICK PARDO IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE
FRANKLIN FURNACE ARCHIVE
AND BAM HAMM ARCHIVES

