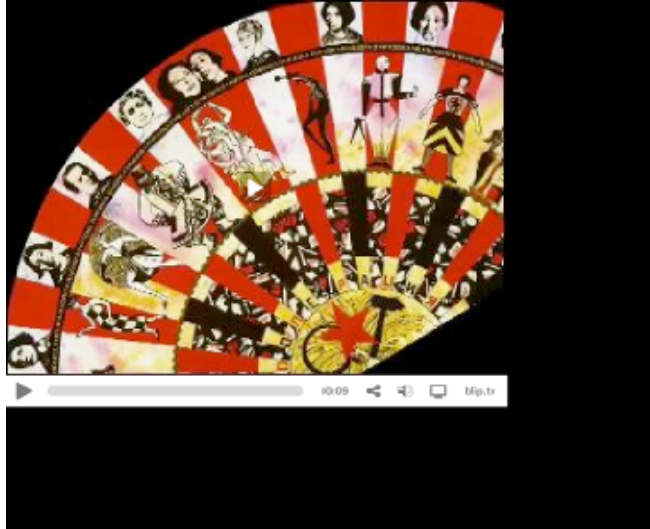


The Heretics

By [COURTNEY](#) | Published: AUGUST 11, 2010



“We have to do it ourselves.”

Nothing sums up the documentary film, [The Heretics](#), or the world of feminist art that it depicts, so poignantly than these six words. Joan Braderman went to New York City in 1971, wide-eyed with dreams of becoming a filmmaker. She stumbled upon the women’s movement come alive in the form of a feminist art collective called The Heresies Collective. Together they would sit around various cramped living rooms and artist studios and discuss the state of the world, art, gender, and revolution.

The film follows Braderman as she tracks down various members of the collective to see what they’re doing now and how they think about their time in the second wave collective. It’s a difficult approach, because there really aren’t stories as much as themes. It makes it difficult to stay engaged—rather than getting pulled in by the narratives of various artists, the viewer is hit with one topic after another.

Having said that, the film was fascinating to me. I couldn’t help but notice the interesting parallels between what The Heresies Collective went through in creating their art journal, *Heresies*, and what the crew here at Feministing has gone through. They were interested in redefining what art is and we’re interested in redefining what news is. They worked collectively, as do we. They did consciousness-raising through their journal; we do it via online community.

Some of the differences, however, were glaring. Their medium—good old fashioned paper—was much slower. They had the luxury of meeting in person weekly (we only get to have retreats a couple of times a year). And they, of course, were doing all of this in a very ripe time, when social change seemed inevitable. Count me jealous, at least on the latter two contrasts.

This wasn’t the most fluid or well-constructed film, but it’s a must-see nonetheless for anyone interested in the feminist art movement, the second wave community, and/or “making it yourself.”

Super cool bonus: you can download copies of the journal online [here](#). They are amazing!



FEATURED VIDEO



'MOOZ-lum' debuts in theaters this weekend

MEET US



[Samhita Mukhopadhyay](#)
Executive Editor



[Vanessa Valenti](#)
Editor



[Miriam Perez](#)
Editor



[Courtney Martin](#)
Editor



[Jessica Valenti](#)
Editor



[Ann Friedman](#)
Editor



[Jos Truitt](#)
Contributor



[Lori Adelman](#)
Contributor



[Chloe Angyal](#)
Contributor



[Rose Afrivie](#)
Contributor



[Shark-Fu](#)
Contributor



[Professor Foxy](#)
Contributor



[Goddess Jaz](#)
Contributor



[Maya](#)
Contributor

SUPPORT

TOP ACTIONS

[Change.org](#) | [Start Petition](#)

[blog advertising](#) is good for you