



#brokenwomenmendstronger
portraits by Virginia Mallon

ARC GALLERY

1463 W Chicago Ave - 312 877 5760

“Not being heard is no reason for silence.”

Victor Hugo

ARC GALLERY & EDUCATION FOUNDATION, SINCE 1973

ARC Gallery is an internationally recognized exhibition space that has been an integral part of the Chicago art scene since its inception in 1973. Founded during the women's movement as an alternative to the mainstream gallery system, ARC is one of the oldest co-ops of its kind in the country. As a non-profit, woman artist-run cooperative, ARC continues its feminist tradition by providing exhibition opportunities for professional and emerging artists working in all media based on excellence of artwork, without discrimination toward gender, race, age, class, physical/mental ability, sexual, spiritual or political orientation.

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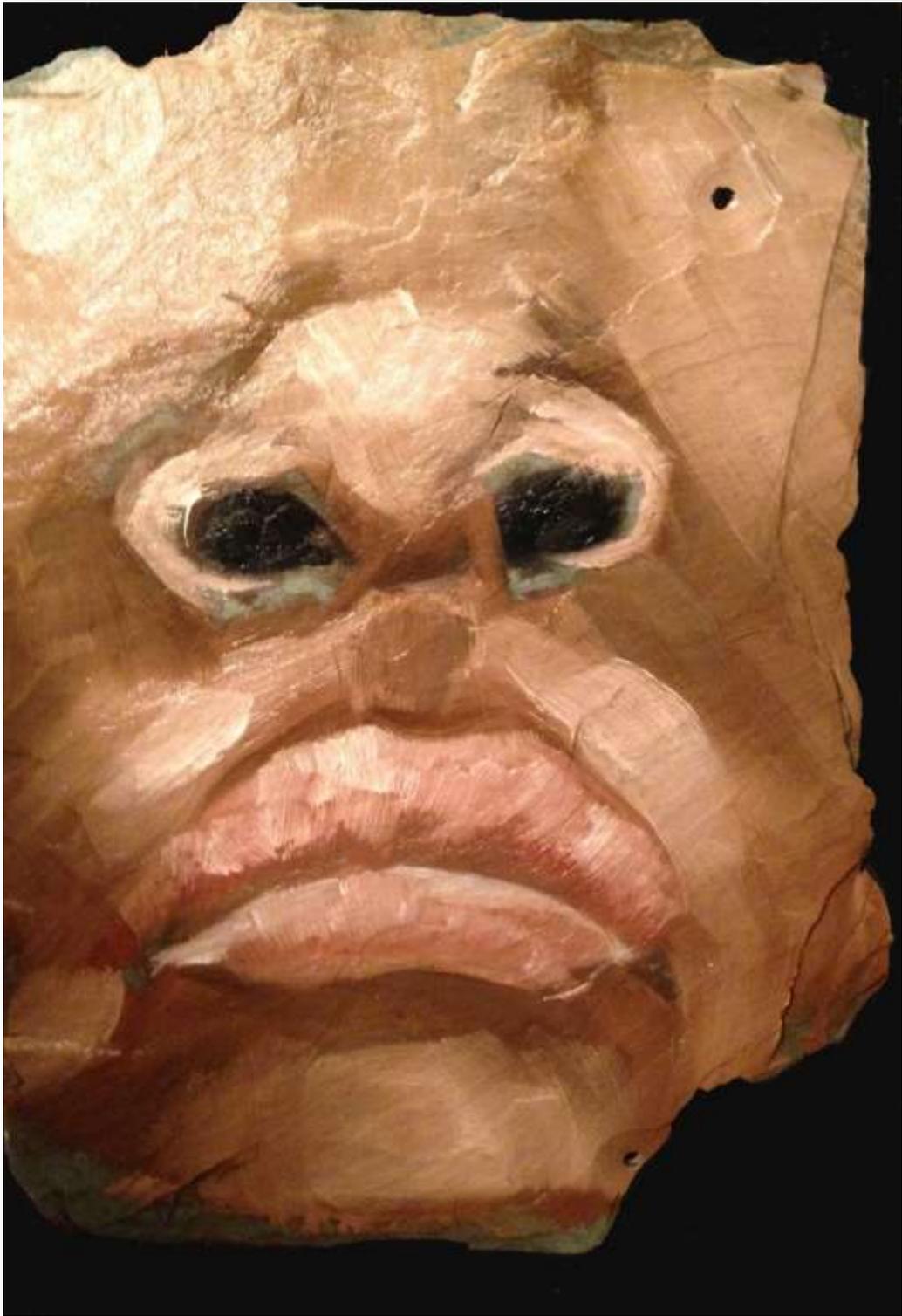
VIRGINIA MALLON

Virginia Mallon is a New York artist, working in painting and photography. She is a graduate of Queens College of the City University of New York, and apprenticed with Grand Rapids native and Indian Space artist Robert Barrell. Her work contemplates religious, historic and mythological women, along with their modern counterparts in American culture.

#brokenwomenmendstronger is a powerful body of work that explores the aftershocks of the #metoo movement and the Kavanaugh hearings. The portraits of survivors are painted on discarded slate from the long-condemned Kings Park Psychiatric hospital. This imagery representing the trauma of assault and examines the brokenness that occurs in the aftermath, and acknowledges women's efforts to reclaim their selfhood.

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Artist Statement: *I do not know of a woman who does not have a story where she was harassed, mauled, pawed, attacked, disparaged, and/or humiliated by the opposite sex. It could have been by a family member, churchgoer, teacher, employer, doctor, or stranger on the street. It could have happened to them as a child, a teen, an adult or senior. It makes me angry, as a woman and as an artist, that this is still the case in 2018. After witnessing the Kavanaugh Hearings, I know things are getting worse.*

This project, a series of portraits painted on slate roofing from the long-condemned Kings Park Psychiatric Hospital, contemplates women – celebrity and otherwise – who have experienced trauma, because they are women. An appropriate medium for these portraits, given the continued precarious situation for females in the US and abroad. I hope you will see strength and endurance in the faces of these survivors. I like to think of them in terms of the Japanese Kintsukuroi, repaired by veins of gold.

In solidarity with #metoo, #support, #enoughisenough, #strongwomen, #womenempowerment, #bestrong, #believewomen, #believesurvivors, #whyldidntreport, #womensreality, #timesup, #nomore, #nevermoore, #meat14, #iamanastywoman, #imwithher, #everydaysexism, #tothegirls, #whylstayed, #yesallwomen, #effyourbeautystandards, #tothegirls and the many other #s on the topic, I add ...

#brokenwomenmendstronger

Healing can only begin with the sharing of stories and the realization that we are not alone. There is power in the knowledge that we can stand shoulder to shoulder, story to story, and mend - and in mending change our world.

SELECT PORTRAITS FROM THE SERIES:

1. Christine Blasey Ford, professor and research psychologist, survivor
2. Anna Mae Bullock, performer, survivor
3. V, artist, survivor
4. Tammy Ryan, playwright, survivor
5. Marguerite Annie Johnson, poet, survivor
6. Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, singer/songwriter, survivor
7. X, publicist/author, survivor
8. Congresswoman Maxine Waters, politician, survivor
9. Tarana Burke, activist, survivor
10. Rose McGowan, activist, actress, model, singer, survivor
11. Olutosin, artist and community activist, survivor
12. The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, politician, survivor
13. Rosemarie Chin, author, survivor



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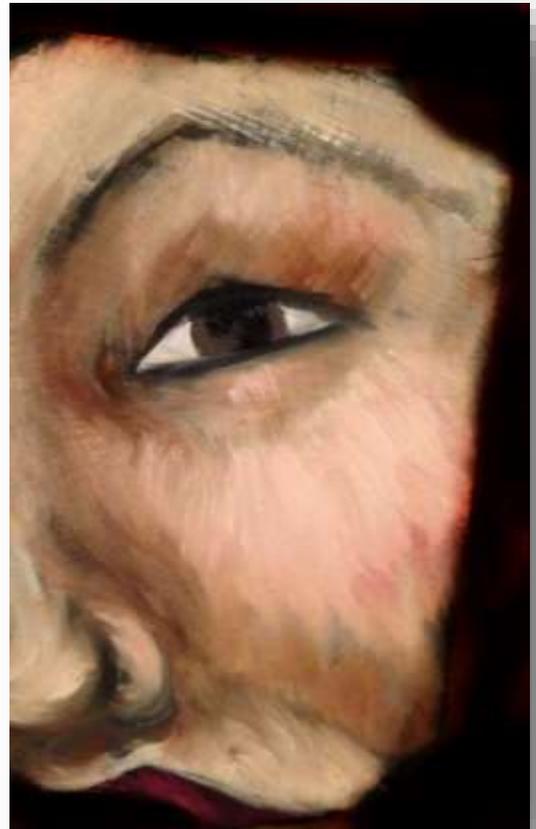
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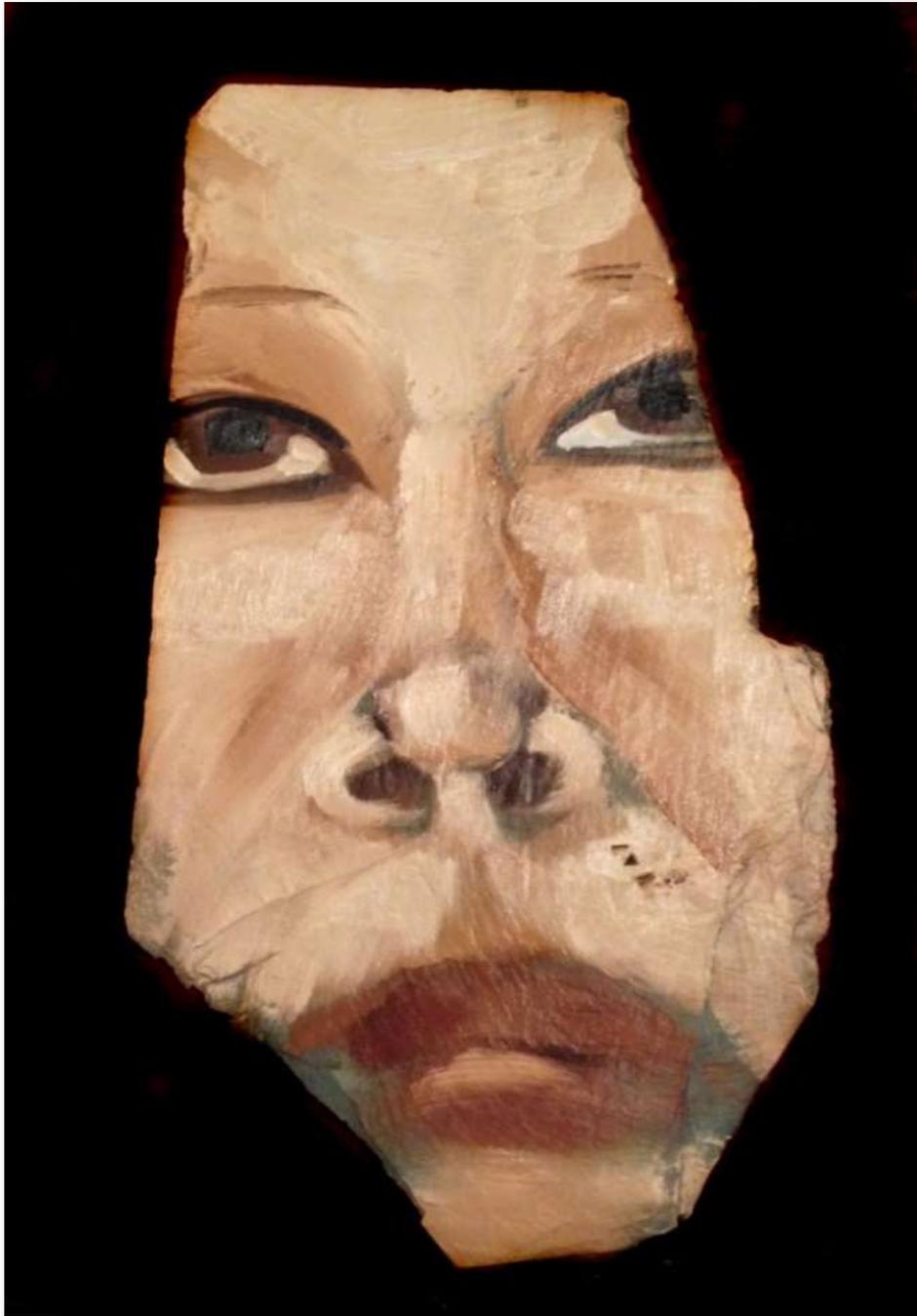


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A portion of the proceeds from this exhibit will be donated to **RAINN** (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization. RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800.656.HOPE, online.rainn.org y rainn.org/es) in partnership with more than 1,000 local sexual assault service providers across the country and operates the DoD Safe Helpline for the Department of Defense. RAINN also carries out programs to prevent sexual violence, help survivors, and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.