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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**36 Female Artists Address Gun Issues and our
Culture of Violence in the USA
in *Deadlocked and Loaded: Disarming America*
hosted by Three Galleries in Syracuse, New York**

SYRACUSE, New York – February 11, 2021. What does America value? Life or Liberty? *Deadlocked and Loaded: Disarming America* is a “locked and loaded” conversation through art, showcasing work in all media, that addresses our culture of violence and gun issues in the United States—particularly in how it affects women, children, and marginalized peoples. This exhibition, curated by Karen M. Gutfreund, is hosted across three galleries, in the first collaboration with artwork at ArtRage Gallery, Community Folk Art Center and Point of Contact Gallery in Syracuse, New York.

From a feminist perspective with artwork from 36 self-identified female artists with 52 works, this exhibition is an arresting, visual testimony combining lived experiences, memory, identity, and beliefs. It documents societal issues related to our culture of violence and systemic racism, crafting narratives blending art, activism, and a cry for social justice to amplify the voices of those who have been historically silenced.

Deadlocked and Loaded: Disarming America reflects this important cultural moment with art that shouts, “enough is enough” and speaks truth to power. This exhibition is meant to “disarm”—a double entendre—not only removing guns from society and those that would seek to harm, but more importantly, to be disarming to the viewer to engender empathy and compassion to the aftermath and consequences of violence.

“Thoughts and Prayers” is a phrase we hear used repeatedly as an expression of post-tragedy condolences—a hollow and meaningless platitude as a substitute for action against gun violence. We employ artwork to fight for human rights and social justice. I created this exhibition because the subject matters are timely, necessary and urgently needed to be seen in a time of systemic racism, toxic masculinity, police brutality and the rise of white supremacy in America.” says Gutfreund.

“Polarized, political times call for political, activist art and we am grateful for the

opportunity to showcase these artists. ArtRage Gallery promotes and supports local, national, and global art activism. We believe that the artist's voice can help to foster important dialogues and inspire others to add their voice," says Rose Viviano, Executive Director and Co-Founder, ArtRage Gallery.

Given the volatile political climate, with the normalization of white nationalism and derisive rhetoric inciting violence, the last five years have made it clear there is a new urgency to address the root causes dividing the country. There is a troubling complacency to mass shootings at schools, churches and public spaces, shootings involving the police, and "stand your ground" ideology, all of which underscore the collective responsibility to come together for the health and wellbeing of our country, our communities, our families, and ourselves.

This exhibition seeks to engage viewers to listen to each other and collectively seek solutions. Art is a mirror we can hold up to look at ourselves. When we authentically come together, we are empowered to create community and facilitate positive change. We can alter the social narrative through art—it can influence the way we think and act as individuals, and as a society. We need the conversations and the action that follow to build bridges to a more peaceable union that has the foundation of justice for all.

Deadlocked and Loaded opens on February 11 and runs through April 15, 2021. A full color catalog accompanies the exhibition and viewable at: https://issuu.com/home/published/deadlocked_and_loaded_disarming_america_issuu

Additional information including the curatorial essay, artist images and statements are available upon request.

About Karen M. Gutfreund is an independent curator and artist. Actively promoting the work of activist and feminist artists with national touring exhibitions, she has produced over thirty-five to date, managing all aspects from curation, artist and project management, as well as the installation. Gutfreund has worked in the Painting & Sculpture Department at MoMA, the Andre Emmerick Gallery, The Knoll Group, the John Berggruen Gallery, and is an art consultant to corporations and individuals. Gutfreund served as the National Exhibitions Director for the Women's Caucus for Art. In addition, Gutfreund is a member of ArtTable, the Northern California Representative for The Feminist Art Project (TFAP), and curator for UniteWomen.org. She is currently writing a book on DIY Exhibitions. karengutfreund.com, [@karengutfreundart](https://www.instagram.com/karengutfreundart)

About ArtRage: The ArtRage mission is to exhibit progressive art that inspires resistance and promotes social awareness; supports social justice, challenges preconceptions and encourages cultural change. Our goal is to provide ArtRage visitors with an experience that encourages the breakdown of boundaries so that people can see themselves in the work and then in one another. And that, we believe, is the seed of a movement for cultural and social change.

From its start, ArtRage has continuously partnered with community organizations in both exhibitions and exhibition-related programming. The goal is always to bring attention to the meaningful work of local activists and organizations. To that end, all of our exhibitions are paired with exhibition-related programs such as films, lectures, workshops or theatrical productions that help to expand the dialogue created by each exhibition. artragegallery.org, [@artragegallery](https://www.instagram.com/artragegallery)

About Community Folk Art Center: Community Folk Art Center, Incorporated (CFAC) was founded in 1972 by the late Herbert T. Williams, a professor in the African American Studies Department, in collaboration with other Syracuse University faculty and students, as well as local artists and Syracuse city residents. The primary motivation and objective for the establishment of CFAC was to provide a high-quality showcase for African Diasporan artists, creating a setting for dialogue and interaction among emerging, mid-career and professional artists, in Central New York. In addition to Williams, CFAC founders include Shirley Harrison, Jack White, George Campbell Jr., Mary Schmidt Campbell, David MacDonald, and Basheer Alim.

CFAC values our role as a vibrant cultural and artistic hub committed to the promotion and development of artists of the African Diaspora. CFAC's mission is to exalt cultural and artistic pluralism by collecting, exhibiting, teaching and interpreting the visual and expressive arts. Public programming includes exhibitions, film screenings, gallery talks, workshops and courses in studio and performing arts. A proud unit of the African American Studies Department at Syracuse University, CFAC is a beacon of artistry, creativity and cultural expression engaging the Syracuse community, the region and the world. CommunityFolkArtCenter.org, [@communityfolkartcenter](https://www.instagram.com/communityfolkartcenter)

About Point of Contact Gallery: Punto de Contacto/Point of Contact, Inc., a New York-based arts organization in residence at Syracuse University, creates opportunities for the exploration of diversity and the exchange of ideas through the verbal and visual arts. Working with the Central New York communities, as well as state-wide and international institutions and individuals, Point of Contact is a collaborative, cross-disciplinary forum where artists, writers, scholars and students actively engage in the production of publications, art exhibitions and events to enrich the cultural mix of our society. Our organization aims to form inspired communities; to innovate through artistic concepts that may resonate locally and globally; to work expansively where intellectual and geographic boundaries are concerned, and to share the experience.

Point of Contact, Inc. is a (501c3) tax-exempt organization. The organization's headquarters are housed at Syracuse University's Warehouse Building in downtown Syracuse. Point of Contact is supported by grants from Syracuse University's College of Arts and Sciences, the Coalition of Museum & Art Centers at Syracuse University (CMAC), and the New York State Council on the Arts. Point of Contact is managed by the Office of Cultural Engagement for the Hispanic Community in the College of Arts and Sciences at Syracuse University. puntocontact.org, [@puntocontactgallery](https://www.instagram.com/puntocontactgallery)

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