

## "CHOICE" Gallery Show



In response to Roe v. Wade reversal, group exhibition raises funds for Planned Parenthood.



*Artist Loveday Funck writes, "We are fighting a dystopian power struggle in which the powers that be would rather women die in agony than be able to possess any control or agency over their own bodies." (Credit: Courtesy the Artist)*



According to the [Pew Research Center](#), 61 percent of U.S. adults say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 37 percent think abortion should be illegal in all or most cases.

Local artist Stephanie Albion falls in this 61 percent. Once the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* leaked in May, she knew she had to do something to express her anger, frustration, and sadness, so she turned to collage, her mode of communication. She also turned to Danielle Sumler in hopes of reviving the Nasty Women of Memphis.

In 2017, Sumler, along with Chelle Ellis, founded the Nasty Women of Memphis, joining a movement of other Nasty Women chapters throughout the country who were putting on pop-up exhibitions in response to the 2016 election. "The whole thing is, one, giving artists a chance to just express themselves and have a conversation," Sumler explains, "but also, making it a fundraiser, too. The artist, when they submit their work, price it themselves, but each piece needs to donate at least 50 percent to Planned Parenthood, with the rest going directly to the artist. Some choose to donate more."

For that first exhibition, Ellis and Sumler had met only a month before opening. "It was very fast," Sumler says. "I think I was kind of shocked by how well received it was under that timeline. We were packed that opening night. It was really exciting — all the positive responses, not only from the artists who submitted but also all the people who came."



*Nasty Women of Memphis' opening reception in 2017.  
(Photo: Nasty Women of Memphis)*

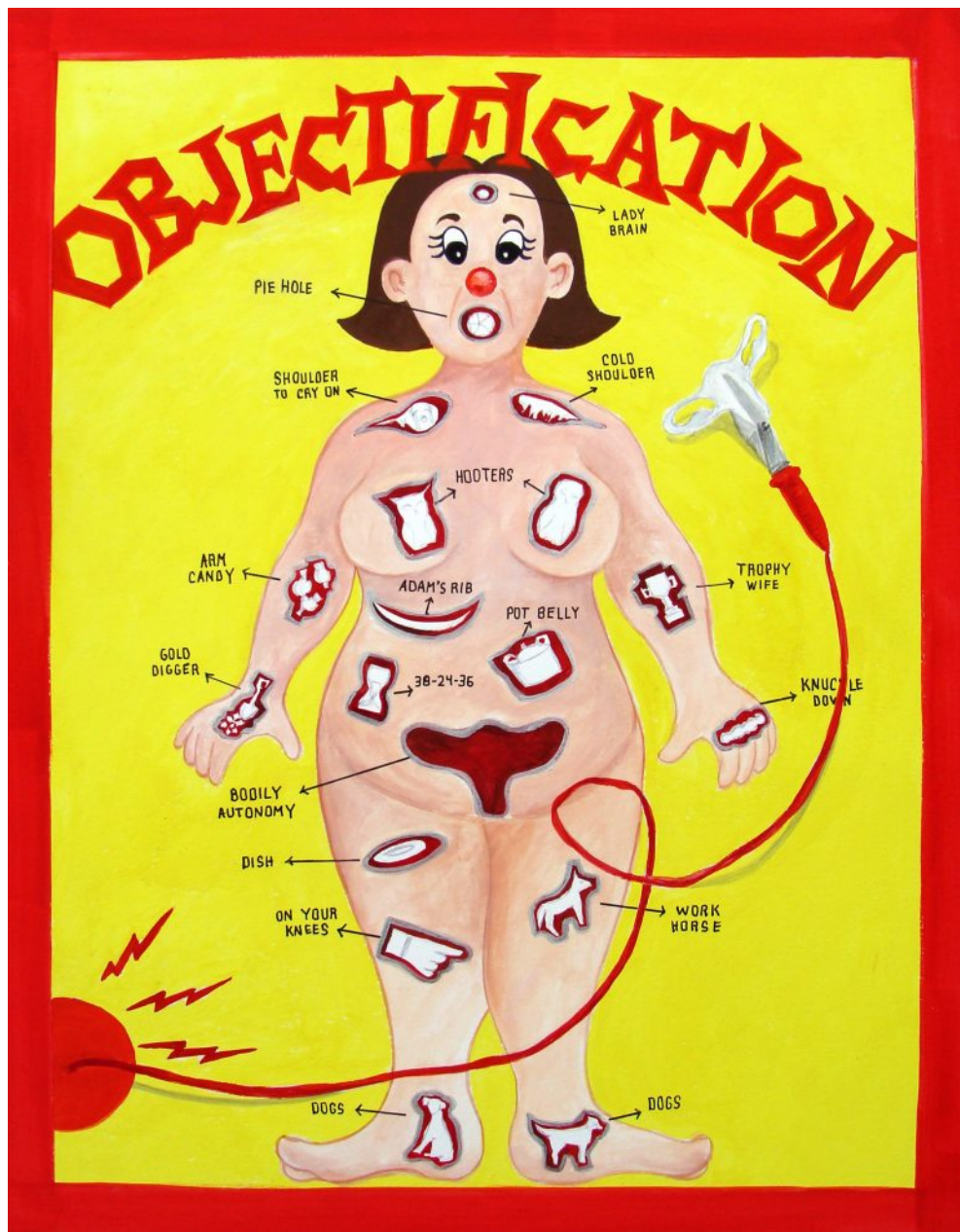
That year, Nasty Women art exhibitions spread globally, raising money on behalf of women's rights, individual rights, and abortion rights, but now most of the chapters are seemingly defunct, including the original New York City chapter. Yet in Memphis, the Nasty Women have put on three exhibitions since that inaugural year.

The next exhibition opened in 2018 and addressed the Me Too Movement and Brett Kavanaugh's U.S. Supreme Court confirmation. The third opened [virtually](#) in 2020, responding to all that was 2020.

"We actually closed on the day the election results came in, so that was pretty cool," Sumler adds. After that, Ellis and Sumler had agreed that the 2020 exhibit would be their last exhibit, feeling that they had said all they needed to say. "We were kind of like, 'We've done this enough, we've had our time with it.'"



But then *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, and Stephanie Albion reached out to Sumler. “We were like, ‘Well, that’s a perfect reason to wanna do something.’” So on June 25th, the day after the *Roe v. Wade* reversal, they announced that another exhibition would happen – “another chance to express our rage through art and another chance to support Planned Parenthood.” The show would be titled “CHOICE.”



*Angi Cooper's Objectification Board (Photo: Courtesy the Artist)*

The call for artists went out to women, people with uteruses, and all those who support reproductive rights. “It’s really important for us to make it an inclusive conversation because not only does this affect someone who identifies as female, but it affects everyone really.” From there, Sumler, Ellis, Albion, and artist Savana Raught worked together on a volunteer basis to select the more than 80 artists of various media and styles. In the end, the pieces, when put together, touch on a range of emotions coming out of the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*: frustration, sadness, fear, anger.

[Cheryl Hazelton](#), who is featured in the show, writes in her artist statement, “I’m terrified of what the future might bring. I need to do something ... anything ... to support the fight against this obvious aggression.” Meanwhile, [Emma Self Treadwell](#) writes, “If it were up to me, I’d line the walls of Congress with uteruses as a reminder that we are here, and we are all around you ... so choose wisely what you do with our rights.”

Overall, each piece points to the consensus that, as artist [Jenee Fortier](#) writes, “Access to safe abortion services is a human right. None of us are safe until all of us are safe.”

---





*Mary Jo Karimnia's The Fall 3 (Photo: Courtesy the Artist)*

You can schedule a tour of the show [here](#) or by emailing [nastywomenmemphis@gmail.com](mailto:nastywomenmemphis@gmail.com). The group will host a closing reception Friday, October 21st, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. You can also view and purchase work from the show [online](#). Prices start at \$10, and proceeds will benefit [Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi](#).

---

*"CHOICE," Marshall Arts, 639 Marshall Ave., on display through Friday, October 21st.*