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Local editions



Two walls of the Jewish Museum's lobby are filled with over 30 new portraits by the painter Chantal Joffe, which explores Jewish women of the Twentieth century.

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With her body of work on view in New York at the Jewish Museum Chantal Joffe explores Jewish women of the twentieth century, focusing on those who made major contributions to art, literature, philosophy, and politics, including Diane Arbus, Nancy Spero, Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, Susan Sontag, and Hannah Arendt

Chantal Joffe has long focused on portraiture, and this new series, titled *Hannah, Gertrude, Alice, Betty, Nadine, Golda, Susan, Claude, Nancy, Grace, Diane . . .*, continues her direct and gestural style of painting.



↑ Installation view of "Using Walls, Floors, and Ceilings: Chantal Joffe", © The Jewish Museum, NY. Photo by: David Heald. Art © Chantal Joffe. Courtesy of the artist; Victoria Miro, London; and Cheim & Read, New York.

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The portraits are not exact depictions, but are charged with the artist's technical, conceptual, and emotional responses. Joffe conducted months of research to gather information and generate personal connections to each subject. As part of this process, Joffe assembled well-known as well as obscure texts and images, and chose to represent the women at various stages of their lives. By bringing together such notable historical figures, Joffe has created a universal family album, a tribute to their contributions as well as an inspiration for audiences today. Implicitly present are the women who perished during the Shoah, whose creativity and intellect were lost to history.



↑ **Left:** Chantal Joffe, *Gertrude Stein*, 2014, oil on canvas, 21 5/8 x 18 1/8 x 1 in. © Chantal Joffe. Courtesy of the artist; Victoria Miro, London; and Cheim & Read, New York. **Right:** Chantal Joffe, *Betty Friedan*, 2014, oil on canvas, 16 1/8 x 11 3/4 x 3/4 in. © Chantal Joffe. Courtesy of the artist; Victoria Miro, London; and Cheim & Read, New York



This presentation is part of the Museum’s ongoing “Using Walls, Floors, and Ceilings” series, showcasing new works by artists from around the globe in the Skirball Lobby. The series builds on the Museum’s 1970s program called “Using Walls”, which featured the work of 14 up-and-coming international artists of the time such as Richard Artschwager, Sol LeWitt, Richard Tuttle, and others both within and beyond the gallery space of the Warburg Mansion. Now, 45 years later, the Museum is revisiting this moment in its history by showcasing new work by emerging artists from around the globe. Since the launch in 2013, the series has featured work by Claire Fontaine, Mel Bochner, and Willem de Rooij.



↑ **Left:** Chantal Joffe, *Nancy Spero*, 2014, oil on board, 18 1/8 x 15 x 3/8 in. © Chantal Joffe. Courtesy of the artist; Victoria Miro, London; and Cheim & Read, New York. **Right:** Chantal Joffe, *Diane Arbus*, 2014, oil on board, 5 3/4 x 11 3/4 x 3/8 in. © Chantal Joffe. Courtesy of the artist; Victoria Miro, London; and Cheim & Read, New York

until October 18, 2015

**Using Walls, Floors, and Ceilings: Chantal Joffe**

organized by Jens Hoffmann and Kelly Taxter

with the support of Wendy Fisher

[The Jewish Museum](#)

1109 Fifth Avenue, New York