

# DEPARTURES

— Art & Culture —

## These Are the Faces of Art Activism Today

By [The Editors](#) on September 19, 2017

Introducing America's most urgent creative movement—  
and the people behind it.



Dustin Aksland

### Zoe Buckman & Natalie Frank

*Photographed at Frank's studio in Brooklyn*

Zoe Buckman (left) and Natalie Frank had hoped their work would be largely irrelevant by now. In pieces like *Let Her Rave* (Buckman's bouquets of boxing gloves bound in wedding-dress fabric) and "The Brothers Grimm" (Frank's series of drawings reimagining

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fairy tales as centers of female power), the two friends marry the fiercely feminist and the stereotypically feminine to explode gender norms. “I thought having to explain the risibility of gender codes would be mostly behind us by now,” Buckman says.

Last spring, the installation artist and the magical-realist painter teamed up for *We Hold These Truths to Be Self-Evident*, a 30-foot mural displaying quotes about rape, abortion, and women’s looks, spoken by 37 politicians from both sides of the aisle. (The title is taken not from the Declaration of Independence but from suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s Declaration of Sentiments, to remind viewers that it was less than a hundred years ago that women won the vote and started to become full citizens—a process the piece suggests is still incomplete.) The work is a testament to the persistence of misogyny and biological ignorance. The message is that words have real-world consequences. —GF

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