Feminism in Contemporary Art

by **Jessica Smith**

Contemporary art can be said to be a reflection of what concerns and plagues society today. A variety of issues find their way into the minds of contemporary artists who express their perceptions into artwork that provoke thought and, ultimately, action.

Feminism is but one issue stirring controversy in society today. Heavily represented in contemporary art, it reflects the growing voice of women in the public arena, not only in the art community. Women's concerns with media exploitation of the female form frequent the work of artists such as Barbara Kruger and Cindy Sherman. My purpose in this visual study is to gain a thorough understanding of how both Kruger and Sherman represent this in their artwork, focussing specifically on how their individual techniques reflect on contemporary society.