



Office of the District Executive

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The United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York in Central Islip is delighted to announce the Grand Opening of the Central Islip Federal Building Art Gallery and the first exhibition, *Therefore, I Am!*, a Multi-media Exhibit by Women Sharing Art, Inc., at the Central Islip Federal Courthouse at 100 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, New York 11722, on January 15, 2025 at 5:00 PM.

“If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.”

Abigail Adams (from letter to Congressman John Adams 1776)

One hundred and forty-four years after Abigail Adams wrote those words, women earned the right to vote. Passed by Congress June 4, 1919, and later ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment granted women’s right to vote. Eight days after the amendment was signed, over ten million women joined the electorate, the largest democratizing event in American history, which changed the face of the American electorate forever.

In celebration and recognition of this hard-won battle to recognize women’s right to vote, the Federal Building Art Gallery is proud to present its inaugural exhibition entitled, *Therefore, I Am!* by Women Sharing Art, Inc. The exhibit will represent an eclectic mix of thirty-five artists and their creative response to the question: *“How has the 19th Amendment impacted who we are as women more than one hundred years after its ratification?”* This exhibit proudly celebrates this landmark legislation which fostered women’s expanded roles, culturally, professionally, politically and artistically.

Women Sharing Art, Inc. is a collective of artists and artisans who support and promote each other as they develop their individual artistic passions. Their membership includes women artists working in photography, painting and watercolor, art glass, fiber art, mosaic, film, poetry, ceramics, and sculpture. Artists were invited to submit work that is inspired by the sacrifices women endured to win the right to vote and the continued resilience women present as we declare, *Therefore, I Am!*

NINETEENTH AMENDMENT

SECTION 1. The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

SECTION 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

The Gallery space is located on the first floor. It is open to the public on weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. This exhibition will be on display until March 31, 2025.

For a list of past gallery exhibitions, visit: <https://www.nyed.uscourts.gov/central-islip-courthouse-art-gallery>
