

Wilke, Hannah (born Arlene Hannah Butter) (March 7, 1940 - January 28, 1993)

In front of Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen's: "Monument to the Last Horse," 1991
Formerly Fort DA Russell, Marfa, Texas:

When Hannah Wilke was the sweetheart/lover/lady of Claes Oldenburg, he had her do his laundry.¹

She separated his clothing from hers.

She removed his lint from the dryer's trap; she fashioned the lint into the form of a vagina.

Time passed.

She came home one day to find the locks changed. She could not get in. He had found another.

More time passed.

"Needed erase her? Don't.... Laundry lint", wrote HW.

After her death, a catalogue/retrospective of Wilke's work required the permission of Oldenburg for the collaborative works to be included. He refused and these works were left out.

"I become my art, my art becomes me...My heart is hard to handle, my art is too," wrote Hannah.

Although Oldenburg posthumously attributed works -- that he had previously ascribed to himself alone -- as being collaborations with his recently deceased wife, on the tour, the statue is still referred to as "The Oldenburg".

What's her name? Doh!

Woman waving: Mary Walling Blackburn

Photographer: Julia Sherman

¹ According to Chris Kraus in "I Love Dick".

Mendieta, Ana (18 November 1948 - 8 September 1985)

**In the structure housing Carl Andre's work, "poems 1958-1972, 1995"
Chinati Foundation, Marfa, Texas**

On Sept. 8, 1985, Ana Mendieta, somehow "went out of the window" of their 34th-floor apartment (as Mr. Andre relayed it to 911).

In a slide series, "People Looking at Blood Moffitt" (1973), Mendieta pours blood and rags on a sidewalk. Her photos (taken from across the street) document person after person walking by without stopping – until the man next door comes out to clean it up.

"It was a hot night," Andre's lawyer said to the judge. "She went to the window to open it. She got up on that sill to open it, she slammed the window open with both hands, her body swiveling, and she lost her balance. She hurled out of the window accidentally." (*NYT*, 2-11-1988)

In "Body Tracks" she dipped her hands and arms in blood and dragged them down a white wall. The film is very simple.

Andre stated, "What happened was we had. . . My wife is an artist and I'm an artist and we had a quarrel about the fact that I was more, eh, exposed to the public than she was, and she went to the bedroom and I went after her, and she went out of the window."

In early 1973, during an outdoor performance at Old Man's Creek in Iowa City, Ana rolled her naked, bloodied body in a bed of white feathers, transforming herself into the white cock which is customarily sacrificed as a preparatory rite for the Nanigos, a secret male society of Santeria.

Claes Oldenburg gave the keys to his loft to Andre in the days following Andre's release-on-bail from Rikers Island. He needed a place to stay.