Berkshire museum Press Release
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Berkshire Museum presents My Fair Ladies: Female Robots and Androids in Movies, Television, Photography and Art

Author Julie Wosk talks about fictional artificial women on Saturday, October 17

[PITTSFIELD, MA] – Author Julie Wosk will give a BeMuse lecture titled My Fair Ladies: Female Robots and Androids in Movies, Television, Photography and Art on Saturday, October 17, at 10:30 a.m. The talk is included with regular Museum admission.

Julie Wosk, professor and author of the new book My Fair Ladies: Female Robots, Androids, and Other Artificial Eves (University Press, 2015), will take us on an amazing tour of artificial women—robots, dolls, mannequins—throughout history. From The Twilight Zone to The Stepford Wives to today’s robot females in television and film, these fictional females reveal men’s fantasies about creating the perfect artificial woman who mysteriously comes to life.

In Wosk’s book, she presents a riveting view of artificial females in film, television, literature, and art—and today's startling silicone robots that look so real they can easily fool the eye. It showcases the fascinating story of how men throughout history have used the tools of technology to produce the glamorous perfect woman. It also highlights women filmmakers and artists who are creating their own witty versions of simulated females, and women working in the field of robotics who are reshaping the field in imaginative ways.
The fantasy of a man constructing his perfect woman dates back to the Greek myth of Pygmalion. Yet as technology has advanced over the past century, the figure of the lifelike simulated woman has become nearly ubiquitous, popping up everywhere from Bride of Frankenstein to Weird Science to The Stepford Wives and the film Ex Machina—and today's eerily lifelike female robots.

"The lure of technology to create manifestations of 'the perfect woman' has long proved seductive... Rounding up a veritable sorority of artificial Eves, Julie Wosk delves into the issues in her latest book My Fair Ladies, casting an analytical eye over female depictions both physical and fictitious, to explore the history and future of Woman 2.0." — The Guardian, London, U.K.

Julie Wosk is professor of art history, English, and studio painting at the State University of New York, Maritime College in New York City. She is the author of four books and has lectured widely on technology, art, and design throughout the United States and Europe. Her lecture "Alluring Androids and Robots" was taped by PBS Television Channel Thirteen in New York as part of their "Best Lectures in New York" online series. She was the curator of the exhibit "Alluring Androids, Robot Women, and Electronic Eves" which has been shown at the New York Hall of Science and at The Cooper Union in New York. A native of Evanston, Illinois, Wosk holds degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, MO, Harvard University, and the University of Wisconsin. She has twice been a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow in art history.

About the Berkshire Museum
Located in downtown Pittsfield, Massachusetts, at 39 South St., the Berkshire Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is $13 adult, $6 child; Museum members and children age 3 and under enjoy free admission. For more information, visit www.berkshiremuseum.org or call 413.443.7171.
In association with the Smithsonian since 2013, Berkshire Museum is part of a select group of museums, cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share the Smithsonian's resources with the nation.

Established by Zenas Crane in 1903, Berkshire Museum integrates art, history, and natural science in a wide range of programs and exhibitions that inspire educational connections between the disciplines. Little Cinema is open year-round. Spark!Lab, Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation, Worlds in Miniature, Aquarium, and other exhibits are ongoing.

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