

# ARTnews

## Canon in Drag: Female Artists Reimagine Famous Works by Men

BY **KAREN CHERNICK** | December 26, 2022 9:12am

### Deborah Kass, **12 Red Barbras (the Jewish Jackie Series)**, 1993



Deborah Kass, **12 Red Barbras (the Jewish Jackie Series)**, 1993, acrylic and screenprint on canvas, 60 x 54 x 2 inches.  
Photo : Courtesy the artist and Kavi Gupta, Chicago.

In one of Deborah Kass's best-known series, "The Warhol Project" (1992–2000), the artist uses the Pop artist's celebrity portraits to address the lack of representation of Jewish people that she experienced growing up. "I had never seen a movie star that looked like Barbra [Streisand], which is to say that looked like me and everyone I knew," Kass has said. Among the icons Kass granted the Warhol treatment are Streisand, Gertrude Stein (whom she turned into Chairman Ma as a wink to Warhol's Chairman Mao), and Kass herself.

In *12 Red Barbras*, 1993, Kass substitutes singer Barbra Streisand for Warhol's repeating profile images of Jacqueline Kennedy. "I replace Andy's male homosexual desire with my own specificity," Kass explained. "Jew love, female voice, and blatant lesbian diva worship."