

The Science Question in Feminism

Kerstin Hamilton

Series of 7 digital montage printed on birch plywood mounted in vitrine, dimensions 21 × 29 × 22 cm each. Commissioned work for The Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (RIBOCA).



The Science Question in Feminism (installation). Photo: Ivan Erofeev. Courtesy of the Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art.

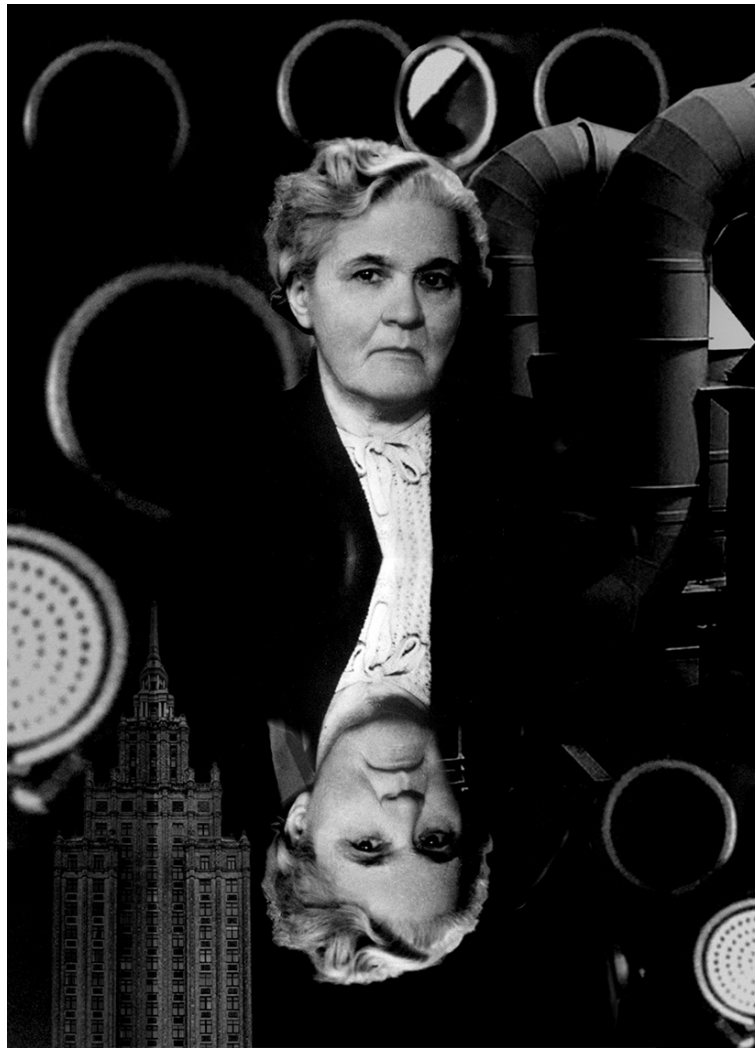


LISE MEITNER

PHYSICIST
AUSTRIA/SWEDEN
b. 1878, VIENNA
d. 1968, CAMBRIDGE

Meitner realised and articulated the physical process of nuclear fission. Nuclear fission was subsequently used by the military industry in the development of nuclear weapon. In the US, the research mission code-named the Manhattan Project was initiated 1942, with the mission to develop the first atomic bomb. Meitner declined involvement in the project stating “I will have nothing to do with a bomb.”

Meitner was nominated for the Nobel Prize a total of 48 times but never won.



LIDIJA LIEPIŅA

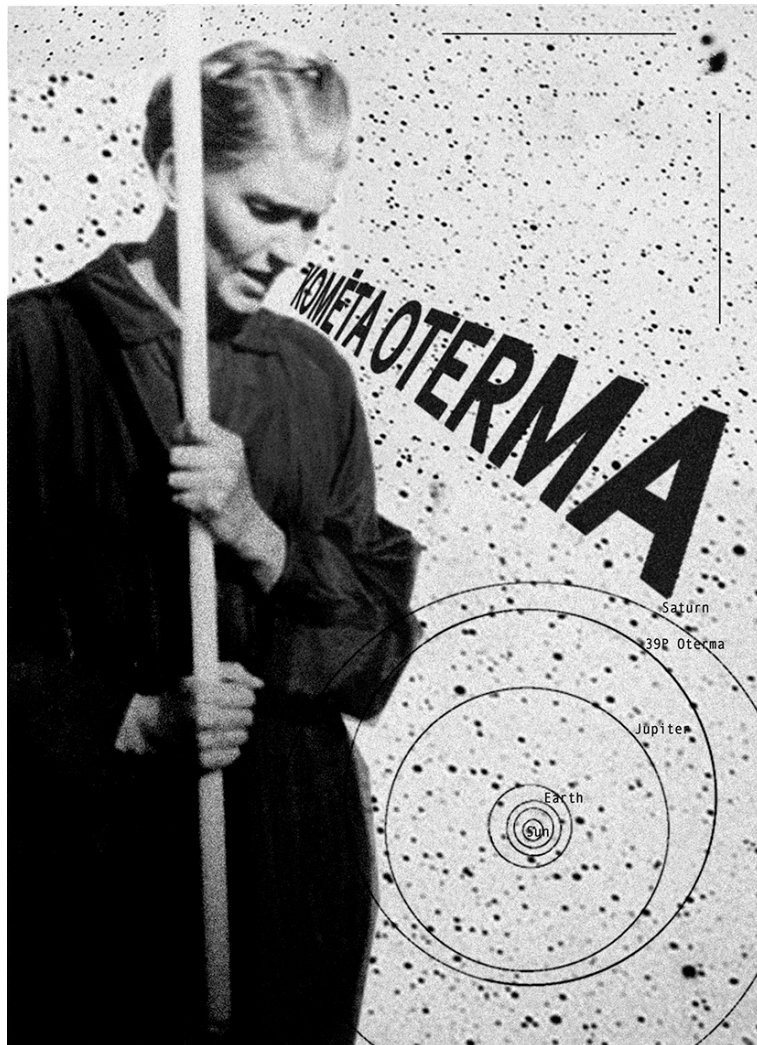
CHEMIST

RUSSIA/LATVIA

b. 1891, SAINT PETERSBURG

d. 1985, RIGA

Lidija Liepiņa was part of the research team that developed the first Russian gasmasks during World War I. She attended the Moscow Higher Women's Courses at a time when women were prohibited from entering universities. She became the first Latvian woman to receive a PhD and the first woman to become a professor in the USSR. Her research concerned the corrosion of metal and colloidal chemistry.



LIISI OTERMA

ASTRONOMER

FINLAND

b. 1915, TURKU

d. 2001, TURKU

Liisi Oterma was the first woman in Finland to obtain a PhD degree in astronomy. She discovered a total of over 200 small planets and three comets. One of her major discoveries was the comet Oterma, which was captured as a barely noticeable object on a photo plate in 1943. In 1971, she became director of the Tuorla Observatory, the largest astronomical research institute in Finland at the University of Turku.