



Martha Rosler
*Off the Shelf:
 About Women,
 By Women*, 2018
 C-print

Martha Rosler
Off the Shelf: About Women, By Women (2018)
 In Martha Rosler & Hito Steyerl "War Games"

Kunstmuseum Basel

05.05. – 02.12.2018

ONE ON ONE

Set against a bright blue backdrop, the magenta cover of Selma James' *Sex, Race and Class* floats above the worn-out spine of Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*. This telling detail of the work, part of Rosler's "Off the Shelf" series (2008–2018), reveals the importance that de Beauvoir's book occupies in what reads as a spatial hierarchy of references. It is in this striking simplicity that the image finds remarkable potential. Juxtaposition and proximity allow meaning to arise through plays on the books' associations, and the condition of each book acts as a sensual homage to its role within Rosler's oeuvre.

The twelve digital prints in "Off the Shelf" depict thematic selections of books from the artist's library on topics ranging from gardening to colonialism, showcasing Rosler's ever-expanding areas of interest. As a whole, the series provides an intimate glimpse into the taxonomy of her mind's reference system and in the end, even if the authors, titles, and editors are unknown to the untrained eye, their spatial combination still feels like poetry. Elise Lammer