

ArtReview

“Power 100: Most influential people in 2024 in the contemporary art world,” *Art Review*, December 4, 2024

Power 100

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Lynn Hershman Leeson

Artist - Forerunner for new art media
63 in 2024

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Courtesy the artist; Altman Siegel, San Francisco; and Bridget Donahue, New York



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It has been 40 years since the multimedia artist started her magnum opus, *The Electronic Diaries of Lynn Hershman Leeson 1984–2019*, a work that foreshadowed much of art’s interest in the technological mediation of identity and in the hybridisation of personal and political trauma. *The Electronic Diaries* was the centrepiece of her exhibition at the Julia Stoschek Foundation in Düsseldorf – which surveyed five decades of performance, photography, video, interactive net-based media and robotic art – and it featured in her MoMA, New York, film retrospective in June. At eighty-three, Hershman Leeson is still innovating (BAMPFA paid tribute to her achievements as a ‘creative visionary’ exploring feminism and technology); the us exhibition also included her four-part ‘Cyborg Series’, including *Cyborgian Rhapsody – Immortality* (2023), written, performed and designed by an artificial intelligence chatbot, while the artist’s earlier New York show at Bridget Donahue featured *Eternally Yours* (2023), a sculpture that housed a refrigerated antiaging vaccine. ‘There’s no need to be afraid of these new tools,’ the techno-optimist artist assured *Artnet*.