Celebrating in-your-face women

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October is shaping up to be a celebration of exceptional women and their artistic vision.

On Thursday, a documentary, "Tina in Mexico," chronicling the life of photographer and actress Tina Modotti, is being shown at 5:15 p.m. in the Salt Lake City Main Library's auditorium. The film will be followed with a discussion of Modotti who became a scandal in Mexico soon after her arrival in 1920 because of her love affairs and unconventional views on women's roles. She wore pants! Susie Porter, an associate professor, History and Gender Studies at the University of Utah and Shannon Dame, master's candidate in Art History at BYU will lead the discussion.

It's part of the on-going "Viva Frida" celebration. Mexican artist and icon Frida Kahlo's life was deeply intertwined with that of Modotti. www.vivafridautah.org/Viva_Frida_Utah/Partners

Then on Friday, the Salt Lake Art Center is launching "Doublespeak," an exhibition of contemporary women artists from around the world who work in code and layered meaning. Artists included in the exhibit are Guggenheim Fellow Jennifer Nelson, 2011 Venice Biennale artist Daniela Comani, Lisa Anne Auerbach, Julie Orser, Carlee Fernandez, Wendy Red Star, and 2011 Rome Prize recipient Mary Reid Kelly.

Salt Lake Art Center, 20 S. West Temple, www.slateartcenter.org, 801-328-4201

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