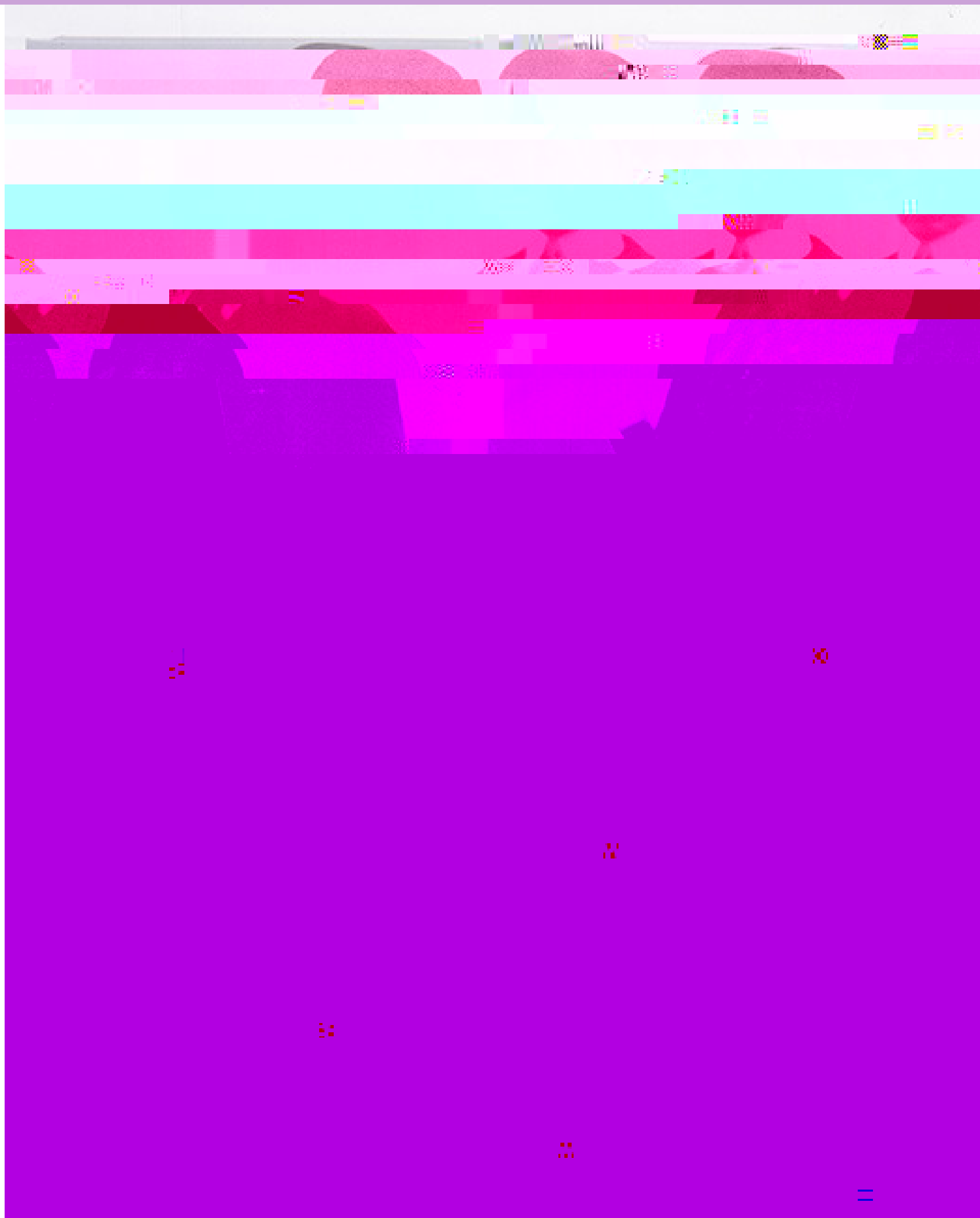


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**DEBORAH KASS**  
**(American, b. 1952)**



## Jewish. Lesbian. Female.

The multiplicity Deborah Kass presents refuses singularity. Offering both an icon and something sacred, references a film and a character of the same name. It unites expressions of gender, sexuality, and trans identities, allowing Kass to

In the 1983 romantic musical drama film, Barbra Streisand plays the title character, a daughter of a Jewish teacher whom he secretly instructs until his death. She presents as a male student to enroll in a religious school to continue studying. Later, Streisand's character falls in love with a male classmate but eventually marries a woman, despite her interest in her wife's former fiancé, further complicating the plot. The wife begins to fall in love with her "husband" regardless. This image is Streisand embodying the male student, where Kass uses the gender-non-conforming character to affirm degrees of lesbian desire.

Kass also addresses the icons of 20th century art, invoking Elvis Presley and Andy Warhol. This silkscreen is in direct conversation with Warhol's many series of Elvis created in 1963. By reproducing a publicity still from the 1960 film, *King of Hearts*, via silkscreen on canvas, Warhol explores cultural concepts of celebrity, image construction, popular media, and procedural remediation.

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