

Artists Space

COMMITTEE FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, INC.
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Four Person Exhibition: Louise Lawler
Cindy Sherman

Adrian Piper

September 23 to October 28 Artists Space opens its 1978-79 season with a four person exhibition of the work of Louise Lawler, Cindy Sherman, and Adrian Piper. The exhibition was organized by writer Janelle Reiring who is concerned with the way in which the art-political context influences how a work of art is understood.

Traditionally, artists have relinquished to dealers and curators the responsibility of presenting their work. Lawler, Sherman, and Piper, however, sidestep the conventional gallery and museum system to control the context through which their work is interpreted. This makes the situation in which the art is seen, integral to the work. The art becomes essentially a political comment on the means by which art is presented, marketed and understood.

Louise Lawler is concerned that her work be direct and uncomplicated in order to bridge the gap between the specialized art context and the larger world. Her books can be found for sale in such unlikely places as Antenna (a haircutter's) and The Bleecker Street Cinema as well as in art bookstores and galleries. Cindy Sherman has largely private reasons for taking on the appearance of another person and going to her job or to another situation where she is known. Adrian Piper uses the art context as a place to present information about political events she finds unacceptable. The fourth artist is concerned only with the immediate exhibition situation and wants the viewer to have information about the piece only as it exists in itself. Consequently, this artist has asked to remain unnamed except in the work at Artists Space.

Artists have been concerned about the issue of how their work was presented for a long time. These four artists confront the problem directly, taking maximum responsibility for their work, minimizing the role of the curator and questioning the role of the gallery.

A catalogue with a statement by Janelle Reiring and sections by each artist will be available at Artists Space. Gallery hours are 11 - 6, Tuesday through Saturday. For press photos and further information, contact Ragland Watkins at 226-3970.