

ARTISTS SPACE

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For Immediate Release

A Living Testament of the Blood Fairies

Selected by Frank Moore, Geoff Hendricks, and Sur Rodney (Sur)

November 9, 1996 to January 4, 1997

Opening Reception: November 9, 6 to 8 p.m.

In the **Main Gallery** Artists Space presents "A Living Testament of the Blood Fairies," with works by ten artists from around the US who are living with HIV/AIDS and two PWA artists who have passed away.

The paintings, photographs, and installations included in the show draw upon fairy tales, cartoons, myths, rituals, and incantations. AIDS is referred to only obliquely or in coded terms. All of the works include text, and at times only the text cues the viewer to the subject of AIDS. The works are intended to broaden the public discourse on AIDS through their tenderness, humor, and poignancy.

The artists in the exhibition represent a small sampling of those who have been served by the Archive Project of Visual AIDS. The Project, started in 1994, provides professional services to artists with HIV/AIDS. All three curators are on the board of Visual AIDS and are members of the Archive Project. The following artists are included in the exhibition: **Copy Berg, Robert Blanchon, Brian Buczak, Valerie Caris, Joe De Hoyos, Robert Farber, Rebecca Guberman, Elliott Linwood, David Nelson, Mike Parker, Jorge Veras, and Martin Wong.**

In a companion exhibition at **Printed Matter**, titled "A Living Testament of the Blood Fairies, Part 2," artists books and related projects will expand on the exhibition at Artists Space. Printed Matter is located at 77 Wooster Street in SoHo; Part 2 runs from January 7 to March 1, 1997.

Project Space: Jeff Francis

Selected by artist Cindy Sherman

Concurrently in the **Project Space** Artists Space presents sculptural "wigs" by professional hair stylist **Jeff Francis**. Francis was selected for exhibition at Artists Space by artist Cindy Sherman; the two met during a photo shoot at *Harper's Bazaar*. Initially, Francis's wigs were used as a costume or prop in Sherman's photos, but Sherman soon recognized that the wigs could stand on their own, as the sole prop. The wigs are constructed, variously, from wire mesh, chandelier crystal, paper, and steel.