ACTIVATED WALLS is a group exhibition of twenty-four artists who were selected from the Artists Space Slide File and commissioned to draw and/or paint directly on the gallery walls. The artistic/executive director of Artists Space, Carlos Gutierrez-Solana, conceived of this project as a process wherein the public could witness the creation of an eclectic combination of large-scale, site-specific-works. The two week duration of the creation process and the implicit ephemeral nature of the work (since they must obviously be painted over at the end of the exhibition) lead the viewer to think about art in contexts other than as a discreet commodified object.

The artists participating in ACTIVATED WALLS are: Chuck Agro, Joe Amrhein, Jesus Aguilar, Arlyne Bayer, Pam Butler, Kristy Chu, Robert Clarke, Christopher Estridge, Bruce Eves, Frank Farmer, Stephen Ford, Alvaro Garcia, Matthew Haberstroh, Janet Henry, Susan Lee, Julio Mateo, Matt Miller, Kathryn Myers, John Rosis, John Sapp, Mark Smith, Michael Smith, Doug Skinner, Deborah Whitney.

The selection process for ACTIVATED WALLS, was accomplished by a thorough search of the Artists Space Slide File for artists familiar with working in various media, on a large scale. The Slide File currently holds the files of over 4,000 artists, so a comprehensive search took several weeks. After forming a pool of potential artists for this project, the programming staff weighed the possibilities until we came up with the current roster of culturally and stylistically diverse artists.

The artists participating in ACTIVATED WALLS will have a two week period, from Tuesday, April 13, through Saturday, April 24, to work on their drawings/paintings. There will be a preview of the completed artworks during the annual Artists Space Benefit Dance from 6:30 PM to 1:00 AM on Tuesday, April 27. The gallery will re-open for public viewing from Thursday, April 29, and continue through the close of the exhibition on Saturday, May 15. There will be a reception for the artists on Saturday, May 15, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. At the conclusion of the exhibition, the walls of Artists Space will be restored to their normal surface.

ACTIVATED WALLS is being undertaken with generous support from PEARL PAINT CO., INC. of New York City.