

Artists Space

COMMITTEE FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, INC.
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FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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Extended to July 14 - WILLIAM LEAVITT: Installation and Drawings

June 16 - July 14 - ART FROM THE BRITISH LEFT: Rasheed Araeen & The Black Phoenix, Conrad Atkinson, Margaret Harrison, Alexis Hunter, Mary Kelly, Tony Rickaby, Marie Yates.

June 23, 5:00-6:00pm - MEETING OF THE NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

WILLIAM LEAVITT's first New York installation is being extended through July 14. The Artists Space installation is one of Leavitt's tableaux pieces that while self-contained, often become sets for actual plays or are projected as such. This "set" presents a partial interior of a night club with tables, chairs and other appropriate details as well as a painted backdrop view of an exterior city square complete with equestrian statue. A sound track of cafe conversation and music completes the atmospheric sense of place, time and ambience.

Also on view, are ten pastel drawings of past and projected sets. Leavitt has presented two plays, "The Lure of Silk" on 1975 and "Rain or Shine" in 1977 at theatres in Los Angeles. In each, actors performed the parts Leavitt scripted while he directed and designed the sets.

This event is supported by a National Endowment for the Arts Artists-in-Residence grant.

ART FROM THE BRITISH LEFT, June 16 - July 14, will present the work of seven artists working in London. It represents a sampling of the Socialist art practice in Britain. Each artist has worked at one time or another with the Labor Left, Communist Party, trade unions or women's movement and all are committed to an art of social concern.

Editor of The Black Phoenix, Rasheed Araeen reflects his opposition to the ostracism of third world artists from British culture. Conrad Atkinson's work has dealt with such topics as the struggles in Northern Ireland, industry's choice of profits over workers' health, conditions in the iron mines and the royal family's involvement in the Thalidomide scandal. Margaret Harrison uses personal and media sources to document the economic plight of non-unionized "homeworkers" in England. Alexis Hunter works in photographic series to comment on fashion mass media and violence toward women. Mary Kelly's work fuses collage, conceptual art, Marxism and Lacanian diagrams to explore her relationship with her child in a feminist context. Tony Rickaby works in a variety of mediums and insists on the validity of an art that is also propaganda. Marie Yates' book and photographic work juxtaposes a passion for British landscape with political analysis.

Organized by Lucy Lippard, this exhibition is the first in a series of socially concerned art to be held in various locations. It is intended to expand international communication and to form an archive of political art. Anyone interested in participating in future manifestations should contact Lucy Lippard, 138 Prince St., NY, NY 10013. Material to be returned should be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

June 23, 5:00-6:00pm, is the first MEETING OF THE NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL since "The Second Meeting for Shelly Duval" on West 53rd St. in Fall 1977. NYCS founder Ray Johnson, who has been called the "grandfather of mail art", says the Artists Space meeting will be very much in the tradition of past meetings. Originally intended in 1968 as the opportunity for NYCS correspondents to meet one another, each meeting since that time has been held in a different location, been called in the name of a different idea and generally resulted in some form of spontaneous activity or what Johnson calls "unknown theatre". As with all past NYCS meetings this meeting is open to the public.

SUMMER HOURS: Tuesday - Friday, 12:00-5:00. Gallery closed July 14 through Labor Day. Exhibitions will resume in the Fall with Artists Space's SIXTH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION.

Programming at Artists Space is partially supported by the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.