

ARTISTS SPACE

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DARK ROOMS

An exhibition of film, slide and video installations
February 5 - March 14, 1987

Opening: Thursday, February 5, 1987 6-8pm
Curators' Talk, Saturday, February 14, 3pm
Illustrated brochure with essay by Daniel Walworth
Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm



Artists Space is pleased to announce the opening of **DARK ROOMS**, an exhibition of film, slide and video installations, organized by Valerie Smith and Daniel Walworth. The artists include Anne Bray, Kendall Buster, John Knecht, Charles Long, and Carolee Schneemann.

Artists Space's commitment to showing film, slide, and video installations is longstanding but in order to respond to the recent resurgence of these media in the early 1980's, Artists Space presented two previous **DARK ROOMS** exhibitions, one in 1983 and another in 1985. Artists in past **DARK ROOMS** exhibition at Artists Space include: Richard Baim, Judith Barry, Dorit Cypis, Perry Hoberman, and Antonio Muntadas. Film installation has developed into an alternative means of representation which does not receive the usual commercial support of the gallery system. The current show focuses on voyeurism, language and politics as they manipulate the viewer through the filmic apparatus.

Anne Bray has been working with media installations since 1978. Her slide installation, Man On First and Third, consists of four projections on four walls with four separate audio loops released alternately. The slide projections show a man putting, a hand picking up a rock, hands opening a newspaper, and a scyth cutting grass. The accompanying sounds are those of a baby crying, human breathing, verbal excuses, and commands heard on the television. In her installation, Bray puts the viewer/listener on an axis between fear and control, curiosity and apathy, repression and inhibition, alienation and conformity. Bray has completed a number of many public outdoor installations, in Los Angeles, Boston and New York City, involving billboards and the suppression of advertisements in specific commercial areas. Bray lives and works in Los Angeles.

Kendall Buster's installation consists of two film projections inserted into two walls facing each other. On one wall, two black and white film images show two pairs of eyes slowly blinking. On the other, a black and white film shows close up shots of people buttoning, zipping up, undressing, putting hands into pockets, etc. As the viewer enters the installation he/she is caught by a green spot light, which confronts the voyeur in the process of looking. Moving around the space, the viewer also passes through stages of seduction and desire. The grainy black and white celluloid image is reminiscent of film noir and acts as an omnipresent eye. The work deals with the processes of looking and being looked at. Kendall Buster has shown at Diane Brown Gallery, NYC; Middendorf Gallery, Washington, D.C.; The Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, PA. She lives and works in New Haven and New York City.