FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HISTORY LESSONS
a media installation by Joel Katz

Selected by Micki McGee
September 28 - November 3, 1990
Opening Reception: Thursday, September 27, 5-8pm
Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11-6pm

HISTORY LESSONS is a film and video installation that reconstructs a classroom environment to examine the transmission of American global perspectives through pedagogy and popular culture. Juxtaposing filmic artifacts of American history with contemporary high school global history curricula, HISTORY LESSONS examines how changing historical perspectives are incorporated into education.

The installation contrasts America of the 1950’s -- an era during which many Americans now in positions of power in politics and education came of age -- with recent efforts to revise school curriculum and incorporate the language of "multiculturalism".

With the clarity of hindsight, Katz analyzes aging artifacts of American history and contemplates the cultural climate that our contemporary leaders developed in. HISTORY LESSONS brings to light the significance of inclusions and omissions that occur when American history is re-written and re-told.

Joel Katz is a media producer and installation artist who taught video production in New York City public high school for three years. His super-8 films have shown in independent cinemas and festivals in the U.S. and Europe, and currently he is producing a videotape entitled "Corporation of the Mind", which uses archival film, poetry, and performance to meditate on how corporate image-making affects American's perceptions of the developing world. His installations have appeared at SOMAR Cultural Center in San Francisco, P.S. 122 in New York City, and the New York City Subway System.

HISTORY LESSONS was originally sponsored by Sculpture Space, Inc. in Utica, New York, where it was presented in December, 1990 as "Teaching Americans The World". Funding was provided by the New York State Council for the Arts Film Installation Program.

Artists Space opens its doors on September 27, from 5-8pm, as part of the Tribeca Art Walk, a collaborative
open house to present fall programming from the following Tribeca non-profit exhibition and performance spaces: Alternative Museum, Art In General, Artists Space, The Clocktower, The Drawing Center, Franklin Furnace Archive, Soho Photo, Ceres and Home For Contemporary Theatre & Arts.


Artists Space is a member of the National Association of Artists Organizations (NAAO) and Media Alliance.