Artists Space

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRENE FORTUYN AND ROBERT O'BRIEN
International Projects: Holland
February 25 - March 24, 1984
Opening Reception: Saturday, February 25, 5-7pm.

Artists Space is pleased to announce the forthcoming exhibition of sculpture by
the Dutch artists Irene Fortuyn and Robert O'Brien, whose work will be on view from

This exhibition is the third of a series, International Projects, taking place at
Artists Space during 1983-84. The International Projects series, which has received
funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, will present five separate instal-
lations. Already featured in the series are Canadian artist Andy Patton, selected by
guest curator Tim Guest, and Belgian artist Didier Vermeiren, selected by Belgian
curator and critic, Jan Debbaut. In addition to Holland, countries to be represented
in the series are Italy and Australia. A curator in each country has been invited to
select an artist to travel to Artists Space to install an exhibition. Paul Groot,
editor-in-chief of Amsterdam's Museum Journal and freelance critic and curator,
selected Irene Fortuyn and Robert O'Brien, and has contributed an essay on the artists
for the accompanying brochure.

Irene Fortuyn and Robert O'Brien are an artistic duo who have been working together
since 1983 with the aim of challenging individual signature. Their project,
Bon Voyage Voyager (A view over the ocean) consists of two parts, the first of which
was installed in the Galerie Van Kranendonk, The Hague, in January 1984. The second
part consists of a sculptural installation to be constructed at Artists Space, con-
taining such diverse materials as coal bricks, salt blocks, and balsa wood. The
titled of their sculptural pieces take their cue from popular culture, such as
Dr. No and Diamonds Are Forever, works which were included in past exhibitions. In
the second part of Bon Voyage Voyager (A view over the ocean), they describe their
efforts as an attempt "to reassess sculpture in a world where materials and shapes
aren't entities to themselves, but only exist in meanings." In addition to the
installation at Artists Space, their book Some Thoughts About Sculpture will be
available. They describe the books as being "about the position of sculpture now,
about making it, the observer, the possibilities of showing it and it being seen,
light on sculpture, and the disappearance of the visual."

Irene Fortuyn and Robert O'Brien both live in Amsterdam. In addition to their
recent one-person at the Galerie Van Kranendonk, they have participated in many
recent one-person show at the Galerie Van Kranendonk, they have participated in
one-person show at the Galerie Van Kranendonk, they have participated in many
recent group exhibitions, including "Groene Wouden" ("Green Forest") at the
Kroller Muller Museum, Otterloo; "Sculpture 83" at the Rotterdam Kunstichting;
"Trienial Plastic", Fellbach, Germany, and "Olivinio Comedia" at 'tVeenster, Rotterdam.

Irene Fortuyn and Robert O'Brien's exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated, 8-page
brochure with acknowledgements by Linda Shearer, an essay by Paul Groot, and Fortuyn
and O'Brien's biography. Available at Artists Space: $1.

The International Projects series was made possible by a grant from the Museum Program
of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Artists Space's regular programming is made possible by grants from: the New York
State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts; the Robert Sterling
Clark Foundation. Jerome Foundation, Lauder Foundation, Samuel Rubin Foundation; and
our corporate sponsors: AT&T Long Lines, Chase Manhattan Bank, Citibank, Con Edison,
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Philip Morris, and Warner Communications.

Gallery hours are: Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm.

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