

artists space

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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September 19-October 17 Artists Space begins its Fall Season with work by:

PHILIPPE DEMONTAUT--"Jean-Maurice Isn't Home Yet"

ANNETTE MESSEGER--"Les Varietes"

TOM WOLF--Paintings

"Jean-Maurice Isn't Home Yet" is the title of the film from which visual artist PHILIPPE DEMONTAUT derives his exhibition of drawings and lifesized, cardboard sets. The narrative structure of the film is simple: as they have done many times before, Mr. and Mrs. Robinet wait for their son, Jean-Maurice, to return home. While going through the everyday motions of their lives, they wonder about him and project an imaginary future for him. At the end of the film, the cardboard sets collapse, coinciding with the collapse of the parents' dreams. At times, the film tells the banal story in comic book style, at other times it tells it through the device of a cardboard television set with animated drawings of TV programs. The couple's ideas are always influenced by the magazine, radio and television media surrounding them. The 16mm, 35-min. film will be shown during the run of the show; a separate press release follows.

ANNETTE MESSEGER is showing a body of work combining photography and aspects of painting; her installation for Artists Space will occupy the large gallery. About her work MESSEGER says, "I am an artist who would like to reconcile photography and painting--these two opposed media that hate each other, are jealous of one another or ignore each other...a rocky marriage." She goes on to say, "...the street, the stores, advertisements, television, the newspapers and the movies are a large part of our Culture...which is a strange mixture of diverse elements...a patchwork of juxtaposed events is what constitutes our identity."

Both DEMONTAUT and MESSEGER are French; and while MESSEGER is a frequent visitor to the United States, DEMONTAUT makes New York his home. DEMONTAUT participated in last year's Times Square Show and MESSEGER has shown most recently at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

TOM WOLF's representational works are painted on both sides of transparent plexiglas. On one side WOLF paints the image and on the other, translucent layers of color. At first glance, many of his paintings look like rectangles of solid color. On closer examination, however, the images on the reverse reveal themselves. WOLF developed this technique over a period of years. He is interested in making paintings that are simultaneously extremely flat and as illusionistic as possible. About this subject matter he says, "My subjects are drawn from my private life and personal feelings, in the hope that if I can honestly confront these, they will have a universal resonance."

ARTISTS SPACE Gallery hours are 11:00 to 6:00, Tuesday through Saturday. Press photos are available upon request.

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