

Artists Space

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May 21 - July 2, 1983
Opening Reception: Saturday,
May 21, 5 - 7 pm.

Los Angeles/New York Exchange

Artists Space is pleased to announce the opening of the Los Angeles/New York Exchange exhibition on May 21, 1983, from 5 to 7 p.m. Funded by generous grants from The National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the Atlantic Richfield Foundation and Warner Communications, this exhibition represents a unique collaboration between Artists Space and Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Inc., known as LACE.

Six artists from Los Angeles will be showing at Artists Space from May 21 to July 2, 1983, and six New York artists will show their work at LACE from June 8 to July 16. Artists Space Director Linda Shearer and former LACE Director, Marc Pally, jointly curated the shows, thus allowing for both a familiar and a fresh perspective to enter into the selection process. An illustrated catalogue covering all twelve artists will be available and includes critical essays by Susan Larsen and Roberta Smith. Smith, senior art critic for the Village Voice, has written on the six New York artists, while Larsen's contribution discusses the Californians.

The New York artists include Charles Clough, Rebecca Howland, Jeff Koons, Nachume Miller, Christy Rupp, and Reese Williams. The California artists showing at Artists Space are Jill Giegerich, Victor Henderson, Kim Hubbard, Lari Pittman, Mitchell Syrop and Megan Williams.

Jill Giegerich's work bears an affinity with Russian constructivism both in its formal realization and in its implicit reference to a social content. Larsen characterizes the work as "stripped of the superfluous; it says only and exactly what she has chosen to say with maximum emphasis and eloquence."

Victor Henderson will be installing one monumental work at Artists Space that integrates cut-out self-portraits within the framework of an actual tree branch in a startling and dramatic presentation. Actively involved with the Los Angeles Fine Arts Squad between 1969 and 1973, Henderson has a background in large-scale murals, to which this recent work is directly related.

Kim Hubbard's work combines invented symbols with graphic sophistication, and, according to Larsen, addresses some basic questions, such as "Do our everyday systems of visual notation and communication truly serve us well?"

Lari Pittman has an eclectic repertoire of images which he paints into a complex network of sources in frequently jarring colors and styles. Larsen writes that "Pittman's work is an assault to the senses that requires one to step back and gain a bit of distance." His "command of both form and content is able to sustain the frantic traffic jam of disparate imagery deliberately placed at the psychological and physical center of his otherwise elegant compositional structures."

Mitchell Syrop's work bears a closer relationship to Kim Hubbard's: he is critically questioning the mass media and the marketing devices of the American commercial system. This ironic reinterpretation of advertisements, for example, indicates an "anger and humor...as well as fascination with the mechanism of it all. The power of unrestricted candor is pitted against the devastating power of a communications industry reaching into every hour and every corner of our lives." Syrop's videotapes will also be shown at Artists Space on May 10th and 11th in the Film and Video series organized by former Los Angeles artist David Cabrera.

Like Henderson, Megan Williams will also create a specific installation for this exhibition at Artists Space; it will incorporate the recorded sound of rain falling on tin cans. Her drawings - both directly on the wall and in large pieces of crushed paper - are often juxtaposed with natural elements, most specifically, tree branches. According to Larsen, "her work is an orchestrated response to nature. She listens, feels, then acts parallel to and in harmony

with natural events, her response is both beautiful and original."

Pally and Shearer actively avoided organizing exhibitions that would be comprehensively representative of current art in either city or that have a specific theme as the primary focus. Although the participating artists bear inevitable and often close relationships to each other and the art of their time, each of the twelve were selected on the basis of individual merit. Their work stands on its own as intriguing statements.

Artists Space regular exhibitions program is sponsored by the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute for Museum Services, the Jerome Foundation, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, Samuel Rubin Foundation, Lauder Foundation, Monterey Fund and the Silvermountain Foundation for the Arts. Corporate sponsors are AT&T Long Lines, Chase Manhattan Bank, Citibank, Exxon, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, Con Edison, Philip Morris, Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb, and Warner Communications.