

ARTISTS SPACE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICHAEL ASHER/JAMES COLEMAN

Artists Space presents a two-person exhibition of work by Michael Asher and James Coleman. This exhibition was organized by Artists Space Curator, Valerie Smith. Accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with essays by Jean Fisher, Anne Rorimer, Valerie Smith and John Vinci (available for \$5.00).

JUNE 2 - JULY 2, 1988

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 6-8pm

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday - Saturday, 11-6pm
James Coleman's piece, Seeing for Oneself, runs approximately 40 minutes and will be screened daily at 11, 1, 3, and 5pm.

Michael Asher/James Coleman offers the opportunity to see two works by internationally-known artists whose work has had limited exposure in New York.

Asher, who lives in Los Angeles, California, has created a site-specific installation that examines, alters, and ultimately comments upon the architectural interior of Artists Space. As Anne Rorimer explains in her catalogue essay: "For this work, Asher has vertically extended the partial walls which, following the general outline of the original walls of the space, stopped short of the ceiling. Recently constructed during a process of remodelling, the new walls lining the interior space, prior to Asher's extensions, inserted their own physical presence like floating or protruding planes into the shell of the encompassing exhibition area. Asher's unpainted extensions of these walls succeed in 'restoring' the space to a more neutral state and reveal the sculptural pretense of architecture that diverges from its self-effacing role as a backdrop. As sculpture, Asher's work blends with the exhibition space by interacting with it and, moreover, comments on the impositional potential of architecture with its tendency to masquerade as art."

James Coleman, who lives in Dublin, Ireland, has created Seeing for Oneself (1987-88), a theatrical drama whose story-line provides a narrative structure and supports various levels of interpretation. The



plot unfolds over a 40 minute period by means of approximately 250 black and white still photographs which are projected on the wall using a triple slide projection with a dissolve unit. A synchronised audiotape provides the voice-over narration of a "plot" which involves the investigation of a murder, the legacy of the deceased, and a romance. The story takes place in a chateau and the characters (including a stepmother, a suitor, a doctor, and a young daughter) perform in period costume. The story and Coleman's mode of presentation involve the viewer in a myriad of ways: the viewer becomes a participant, questions about the identity of the narrator arise, thoughts about death/rebirth are challenged, and art/fiction comes to mirror the truth.

Artists Space would like to thank the Lannan Foundation for making this exhibition possible.

Artists Space activities are made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; New York State Council on the Arts; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Art Matters, Inc., Cowles Family Charitable Trust, Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, Inc., Jerome Foundation, W. Alton Jones Foundation, Charlottesville, VA., The J.M. Kaplan Fund, Lannan Foundation, Leonhardt Foundation, The Joe and Emily Lowe Foundation, Inc., The New York Community Trust, Betty Parsons Foundation, The Reed Foundation, Inc., Mark Rothko Foundation, Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, American Express Company, Chase Manhattan Bank N.A., Consolidated Edison, Equitable Real Estate Group, Inc., General Atlantic Corporation, R.H. Macy Company, Mobil Foundation, Inc., Morgan Guaranty Trust of New York, Philip Morris Companies, Inc., The Artists Space Exhibition Circle, as well as numerous friends.

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