Show and Sell

Artists Space, a nonprofit gallery funded by the NEA and the New York State Council on the Arts, has just recently moved to new quarters in the Fine Arts Building at 105 Hudson Street. To inaugurate the new gallery, AS has decided to hold an auction. To help in the selection of the 60 artists to be included, a sponsoring committee of some renown was put together: Paula Cooper and Henry Geldzahler, Thomas Hess and Barbara Rose, and Andy Warhol and Angela Westwater, among others. They not only did the preselecting of the artists from AS’s permanent slide file but are expected to drum up people who will buy at the auction.

AS has always shown New York State artists who are unaffiliated with commercial galleries. The pre-auction exhibition is really rather intriguing—lots of post-Marden, post-Tuttle-isms. Lots of photography and humorous mixed media. It is a good cross-section of what interests younger artists these days. And even older ones, like Lil Picard, the doyenne of the permanent avant-garde, with her napkin portraits.

Prices at the auction, which will include some 200 works, range from $25 to $350, with the artists themselves setting reserves on their pieces. The artists will get all the profits from the sales, as well as having one work each illustrated in the auction catalogue.

The exhibition will last until the January 22nd auction date. It’s a good chance for collectors who like to buy their art before it has been “discovered” by dealers and critics.