

# Artists Space

For further information and  
press photos contact: Susan  
Wyatt (212) 226-3970

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NEW GALLERIES OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE

Organized by Helene Winer

January 21 - February 18, 1984

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 21, 5 - 7pm.

Artists Space presents NEW GALLERIES OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE from January 21 to February 18. The exhibition includes work from seventeen galleries located in the East Village or the area east of Second Avenue, just below Houston Street: CASH, Christminster, Civilian Warfare, East 7th Street Gallery, Executive Gallery, 51 X, Fun Gallery, Garet/Kohn Gallery, Gracie Mansion, International with Monument, Nature Morte, New Math, Oggi-Domani, Pat Hearn, Piezo Electric, P.P.O.W. and Sharpe Gallery. Work by artists associated with the galleries have been selected by the individual gallery directors, and Helene Winer, organizer of the exhibition.

Helene Winer is a past Director of Artists Space and currently co-owner of Metro Pictures, a commercial gallery in SoHo. As part of Artists Space's celebration of its 10th anniversary season, she has organized this exhibition to examine a growing number of artist organized commercial exhibition spaces. Ms. Winer's past experience with the non-profit art community and her present position in the commercial art world offer a unique outlook on this new trend. In keeping with Artists Space's support of new art through both its Exhibition Program and Grants Program, NEW GALLERIES OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE is a look at a new outlet for emerging art: an outlet which straddles the lines between the artists cooperative, the non-profit alternative space, the artist organized independent exhibition and the commercial gallery.

NEW GALLERIES OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE acknowledges the recent appearance and rapid proliferation of more than twenty commercial art galleries that are introducing new artists and art. This phenomenon has created overnight, it seems, active new exhibition outlets for artists, an on-going vehicle for massive social opening events, a Sunday activity for the art audience, a new map in the Gallery Guide and a new focus of excitement and energy in the art community.

The galleries are now numerous and offer more than the aesthetic that was first presented by the pioneers (Gracie Mansion, Fun Gallery and 51 X) and which has come to be associated with the East Village. They are very professional enterprises that intend to provide serious support and attention to the artists they show. Many of the galleries are artist owned. The artist/owners who converted storefronts to studios have now converted these studios to galleries. Most of these owners work at jobs separate from the gallery to support the activity and many live "behind the shop." The East Village Eye and New York Beat play the role that the SoHo News and the Village Voice did for SoHo and Tribeca. The East Village and the Lower East Side of New York has been an area many artists moved to, since SoHo and then Tribeca have been increasingly gentrified, a fate that may now befall the East Village itself.

Over the years the art community has found "alternative" means of creating needed opportunities for artists to exhibit their work to at least their peers, and occasionally to a broader audience. In the fifties, New York artists opened cooperative galleries on Tenth Street. Later, alternative spaces opened with government funding; commercial galleries moved from Uptown to Downtown for both space and accessibility to the artists community; artists organized their own temporary exhibitions such as the Times Square Show, and now, in a period of two years, some 25 commercial galleries have opened on the Lower East Side, the majority in 1983.

NEW GALLERIES OF THE LOWER EAST SIDE is accompanied by an illustrated 8 page brochure, available for \$1. at Artists Space and at each participating gallery.

Artists Space activities are 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, EXXON, Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb, R.H. Macy and Company, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, Philip Morris, and Warner Communications.

Gallery hours are: Tuesday through Saturday, 11 A.M. - 6 P.M.

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIDIER VERMEIREN

International Projects: Belgium

January 21 - February 18, 1984

Opening reception: Saturday, January 21, 5-7PM

Artists Space is pleased to announce the forthcoming exhibition of sculpture by Belgian artist Didier Vermeiren, whose work will be on view from January 21 to February 18, 1984.

This exhibition is the second 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 work by five artists. In addition to Belgium, countries represented in the series will be Holland, Italy and Australia. This fall, an artist from Canada, Andy Patton, was chosen by curator Tim Guest to exhibit as part of the series. A curator in each country has been invited to select one artist to travel to Artists Space to install an exhibition. The International Projects series is an extension of Artists Space's highly successful U.S. Projects series, which presented ten one-person exhibitions from 1980-82, also sponsored by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Jan Debbaut, Curator of the Van Abbe Museum in Eindhoven and formerly Curator at the ICC in Antwerp, selected Didier Vermeiren, and has contributed an essay on the artist for the accompanying brochure.

Didier Vermeiren's sculptures consist of pedestals and bases which may or may not relate to specific pieces of sculpture by other artists. For example, his most recent show included a bronze piece which duplicated the dimensions of the base of Rodin's "Walking Man" (1887). Other pieces consist of pairs of identical pedestals which are placed on top of each other so that the tops meet at the center -- one mirroring the other -- with the bottom pedestal right side up and the top pedestal upside down. The "pedestal sculptures" as Vermeiren calls them, are fabricated in a variety of media: marble, bronze, and painted or stained wood. Vermeiren's installation will include a "pedestal sculpture" fabricated in France as well as other pieces he will create in New York. The new sculptures will relate to other sculptures on view in New York during Vermeiren's exhibition.

Didier Vermeiren was born in Brussels and now lives in Paris. He has shown recently in Paris at the Galerie Eric Fabre (1983), in Antwerp at the Galerie Micheline Szwajcer (1982) and in Brescia at the Galleria Massimo Minini (1981). Vermeiren has also shown in a church in Audenarde, Belgium (1982) and did an open studio exhibition while in New York in 1978.

Didier Vermeiren's exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated, 8-page brochure with acknowledgements by Linda Shearer, an essay by Jan Debbaut, and Vermeiren's biography. Available at Artists Space: \$1.

The International Projects series was made possible by a Special Exhibitions grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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