

STATEMENT

Documents, related papers and articles from the F.B.I. file on Jean Seberg, are the thematic background for this 10' x 20' floor installation which consists of a room full of colored gravel and a viewing platform.

The theme is overtly political; however, the nature of the installation is distinctly different from political propaganda.

In response to my petition, the F.B.I. sent me its file on this American actress who lived in France, and killed herself there in September, 1979. The documents in the file, declassified under the Freedom of Information Act, demonstrate that she was a victim of F.B.I. surveillance and domestic counterintelligence activities from 1969 to the early 1970's. It is speculated that this contributed to her distress, emotional breakdown and suicide.

The floor installation forms "Part I: Secret," from my larger "Freedom of Information Act Work," begun in 1979. Other sections of "Part I," will be exhibited at other locations in New York City, and at Duke University in the Spring, 1980.

In conjunction with this work I am printing a book, "Essential Documents: The F.B.I. File on Jean Seberg," which will be available at the exhibition.

In 1979 I spent several months in Eastern Europe. When I returned to the U.S., the contrast between there and here, made me keenly aware of the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, and legal, public access to government records.

The physical experience of growing up at the seaside, and my trips to Japan and to the American Southwest, influenced my use of loose, colored gravel which I also utilized in my floor installation in New York City last year.

Margia Kramer

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