

Artists Space

COMMITTEE FOR THE VISUAL ARTS, INC.
105 HUDSON STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10013
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TRAVELLING EXHIBITION - Sponsor, National Distillers and Brewers Corp.

National Distillers & Chemical Corporation is sponsoring an exhibition organized by Artists Space and guest curated by critic Douglas Crimp. The exhibition identifies the work of a group of young artists that represent a new sensibility. Their work is as yet almost wholly unknown. If it has been shown at all, it has appeared in group shows with no pretense to a thematic coherence. The Artists Space show will group a number of artists together with the express purpose of contextualizing and defining this new art for the first time. The well illustrated catalogue and essay will serve as an important means of explicating this new work.

The fundamental relationship between the artists under consideration for the show is their use of recognizable, non-abstract images, without, however, resurrecting representation as it is traditionally understood. (The return to figurative painting is at the farthest remove from this new work). Within the general context of what has become known as "Post-Modernism," these artists reject the notion that art is predicated on an investigation of the medium as such. For these artists the medium functions in direct relationship to the presentation of the image. Because the image itself is of primary importance, the means of its presentation is chosen for its transparency and efficiency. As a result, the artists work in a variety of mediums and shift with ease from one to another. Thus the works range from painting and sculpture to photography, film, and audio recordings.

Usually the images in this work are immediately recognizable, simple and direct. Often they are "found" rather than invented images. But though they are comprehensible and often common, they are removed from a context of normal association and made autonomous within an esthetic structure. In this sense they share the concreteness of Minimal sculpture. They are inescapably what they are. They are not symbols or icons or even metaphors, although they incorporate the implied potential of all three.

While the description of the general nature of the work might suggest an affinity with certain Pop art, this is less important and direct than what is shared by these artists and certain aspects of Conceptual Art, Post-Minimal Sculpture and Performance art. The tendency to incorporate images in one form or another in art is currently very widespread. However, only a limited number of young artists have approached the image with the intense clarity that signals a new direction. While a number of artists are under consideration for the final inclusion, the core group has already been decided upon. Included here are slides of work by some of these artists.

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A NEW SENSIBILITY - Artists Space exhibition, sponsored and travelled by National Distillers & Chemical Corporation. Curated by Douglas Crimp

Exhibition Specifications

8 Artists

Each artists requiring approx. 15' running wall space - totally min. 120 feet. Possible one separate space for installation, and one space for film projection. Equipment needed - 1 16mm film projector, 1 or 2 carousel slide projectors, 1 record player.

Costs-

catalogue, organization, artists fees covered by Distillers Grant

Borrowing institution covers insurance, shipping partially covered by grant depending upon distance. (works in exhibition are neither large, heavy, overly sensitive- require only standard packing and handling)

National Distillers will sponsor any opening parties, publicity.