

GALLERY
Exhibitions

FILM/VIDEO
Program

ARTISTS GRANTS
Exhibition Funding

ARTISTS FILE
Slide Registry

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

three exhibitions at Artists Space

Main Gallery: Art's Mouth
an exhibition of work by self taught artists. Sponsored annually by the Mark Rothko Foundation, this show is designed to showcase the work of older and mature artists.

Projects Room: Our Bodice, Our Selves
an installation by San Diego artist Deborah Small, selected by Madeleine Grynsztejn, Associate Curator, San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art.

Underground: Uncontaining
an installation of new work by Vivian Selbo

May 16 - June 29, 1991

Opening Reception: May 16, 6-8pm

Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11-6pm

Art's Mouth highlights the work of four to six artists who are primarily self taught and whose involvement in art making has come late in life, and has produced a consistent and committed body of work. Often known as Outsider, Folk or Visionary artists, their work is not made within the context of the mainstream art world or with the gallery space in mind. The field of self taught artists has largely been perpetuated by mainstream contemporary artists who have taken an interest in or been influenced by the integrity of the work and directness of approach of the artists. It is in this spirit that in organizing this exhibition Artists Space has consulted a wide range of contemporary artists who are involved in the field of self taught artists in order to broaden the context in which the work is seen, and to broaden mainstream definitions of contemporary art.

Art's Mouth, which takes its title from an assemblage by a self taught Ohio artist Birdie Lusch, will be accompanied by a documentary catalogue which will include biographical information about each of the artists and photographic reproductions of their work.

The Mark Rothko Foundation sponsored exhibitions are devised by a committee of Artists Space board and staff members: Richard Armstrong, Connie Butler, Hermine Ford, Irving Sandler and Susan Wyatt. Since 1983, The Mark Rothko Foundation has sponsored this series of Artists Space exhibitions highlighting the work of older and mature artists. Past exhibitions in this series have included Mowry Baden, Sally Hazelet Drummond, Frederick Hammersley, Shirley Jaffe, Lee Mullican, Gordon Onslow-Ford, Carol Haerer and Ed Clarke.

Our Bodice, Our Selves
Deborah Small

For her exhibition at Artists Space, San Diego artist Deborah Small has created a new installation Our Bodice, Our Selves. The installation is divided into two areas of exploration involving "captivity narratives," and consists of two large, quilt-like grids of color xeroxed panels with free-standing cut-outs.

The two pieces explore the popular literary phenomenon of the captivity narrative or "bodice ripper," and the specific tale of Jemimah Boone, Daniel Boone's daughter, who was apparently captured in 1776 by Shawnee and Cherokee Indians. Small scavenges a wide range of sources to cull the visual and textual references which are didactically arranged to lend an air of scientific truth to the bizarrely distorted and constructed histories she critiques. Images from children's reader of the 40s and 50s, popular drugstore romance novels and "documentary" yarns compiled by explorer's of the New World all rewrite and codify ideas about race and gender. They have become what the artist calls, "cultural scripts." Small's investigation of the language of sexism, patriarchy, imperialism and racist posturing as embodied in these captivity narratives seeks to question the societal roles imposed on women.

Our Bodice, Our Selves is funded in part with the support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Uncontaining, a new installation by New York artist Vivian Selbo, is part of Artists Spaces Underground series of small, one person exhibitions selected by Artists Space staff out of the Artists File. Using photographs of women, which are manipulated into geometric container forms to spell words, Selbo references the language of possession and containment as it is used to subordinate sexuality and gender.

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