

# ARTISTS SPACE

## PRESS RELEASE



PROJECT SPACE

March 30 to May 12, 2007

Opening Reception: Friday, March 30, 6-8 PM

### REALLIFE Magazine: 1979-1990

Curated by Kate Fowle



Image: *Front and back cover and center page, Issue #11/12, Tom Lawson, Winter 1983. Re-photographed found imagery.*

Richard Baim, Eric Bogosian, Glen Branca, Critical Art Ensemble, Jamie Davidovich, Jessica Diamond, Mark Dion + Jason Simon, Jack Goldstein, Kim Gordon, Group Material, David Hammons, Michael Hurson, Ray Johnson, Mike Kelley, Barbara Kruger, Louise Lawler, Sherrie Levine, Sol Lewitt, Robert Longo, Ken Lum, Allan McCollum, Paul McMahon, Matt Mullican, Adrian Piper, Richard Prince, David Robbins, John Roberts, Cindy Sherman, Michael Smith and James Welling

*REALLIFE Magazine* was first developed by Thomas Lawson while working as a NEA funded critic in residence at Artists Space in 1979. Evolving out of late-night conversations about the options open to young artists in New York City, the first issue was made possible—both in terms of content and production—through the network that was developing between young artists in Buffalo and New York City. Lawson describes its beginnings: “The idea was to provide a forum for our generation; artists talking about and with artists, discussing each other’s work, the work of admired elders, and also speculating on the general culture. At the time gallery support was sparse. Alternatives like Artists Space and 3 Mercer were open to showing new work, and provided an important service, but could not offer on-going support. Artists Space did provide a place for discussion, however, and *REALLIFE* magazine developed from that milieu.”

People involved in these early discussions in one way or another included: Thomas Lawson, Susan Morgan, Sherrie Levine, Bill Edmundson, David Salle, Paul McMahon, Helene Winer, Steve Fraccaro, Mike Smith, Barbara Kruger, Robert Longo, Jack Goldstein, Dan Graham, Douglas Crimp, Craig Owens, Richard Prince and Walter Robinson. Throughout the thirteen-year history of the magazine, many of these people would write for *REALLIFE*, as well as have their work written about. Starting with a focus on the ‘pictures’ artists and an affinity with the world of TV and film culture, the magazine charts the rise of the postmodernism and post feminist debates before moving into more political issues, from institutional critique and hypertext to AIDS and el Salvador. As the 80s unraveled, and priorities and interests shifted in the art world, the magazine remained a forum for artists’ opinions, provided exposure for those overlooked by the mainstream, and introduced the work of a new generation of practitioners, from Mike Kelly to Group Material, David Hammons and Critical Art Ensemble.

*REALLIFE: 1979-1990* looks at the art, politics, and cultural scene of the 80s through the lens of the magazine. The exhibition is the second in a series of exhibitions that mines the history of Artists Space in relation to current issues prevalent in today’s artworld. The first was “*Pictures*” *At An Exhibition* in 2001, a re-staging of the seminal exhibition *Pictures*, curated by Douglas Crimp in 1977.

The exhibition coincides with the launch of the publication *REAL LIFE Magazine: Selected Writings and Projects 1979-1994*, edited by Miriam Katzeff, Tom Lawson and Susan Morgan and published by Primary Information (NY, 2007)

For press inquiries, please contact Hillary Wiedemann at 212.226.3070 x 302 or [press@artistsspace.org](mailto:press@artistsspace.org)

38 GREENE STREET FL 3 NEW YORK NY 10013 T 212 226 3970 [WWW.ARTISTSSPACE.ORG](http://WWW.ARTISTSSPACE.ORG) TUE-SAT 11AM-6PM