

# Artists Space

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Organized by Sabra Moore for ARTISTS CALL AGAINST U.S. INTERVENTION IN  
CENTRAL AMERICA

January 21 - February 18, 1984

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 21, 1984, 5-7 PM

Along with many other New York City non-profit and commercial galleries, Artists Space is participating in ARTISTS CALL AGAINST U.S. INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, a nationwide series of events and exhibitions organized in support of cultural workers in Central America. An extraordinary number of artists and organizations have joined together to express the deep concern of the visual arts community at the intervention of our government in the affairs of Central American countries.

RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT, organized by artist Sabra Moore, involves a collaborative work by 19 women artists. They are Emma Amos, Frances Buschke, Camille Billops, Josely Carvalho, Catherine Correa, Christine Costan, Colleen Cutschall, Sharon Gilbert, Kathy Grove, Marina Gutiérrez, Virginia Jaramillo, Kazuko, Sabra Moore, Helen Oji, Catalina Parra, Linda Peer, Liliana Porter, Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, and Holly Zox.

RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT is commemorating four Mayan codices which survived the massive bookburning of all the other Mayan codices in 1562; their destruction was overseen by the Franciscan missionary Diego de Landa, Mayan scholar and first bishop of the Yucatan. These pictographic and hieroglyphic books contained the artistic, religious and historical records of the Mayan people. In 1983, the United States government is in the process of intervening in the same region through its military and cultural support. The Mayan inhabitants of this region are daily facing physical and cultural annihilation.

The artists will reconstruct a Mayan codex in the same form as one of the most beautiful of the surviving Mayan books, the Dresden Codex, a folded gessoed book, 8 inches high by 11 3/4 feet long. The form is being imitated as an homage to the partially destroyed Mayan culture, in an effort to learn by repetition. Each artist will recreate two gessoed pages, each 8" x 3' 9/16", as she chooses, through painting, cutting, rebuilding, drawing, etc. By commemorating the Dresden Codex, this project acknowledges and, by implication, opposes the continuing European destruction of native cultures.

The reconstructed codex will be re-sewn and will be displayed folded out on a table in the gallery. Each artist will also contribute one work for the wall of the room, which will correspond in color to the four directions as described in the four-cornered Mayan cosmology: red wall for East, white wall for North, black wall for West, yellow wall for South. The codex will be in the middle.

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.