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### SELECTIONS-ALJIRA AT ARTISTS SPACE

Organized by Carl Hazlewood, Artistic Director, Aljira,  
A Center for Contemporary Art, New Jersey

September 28 - November 3, 1990

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 27, 5-8pm

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11-6pm

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SELECTIONS-ALJIRA AT ARTISTS SPACE is a group exhibition of New York and New Jersey artists chosen from both Artists Space's Artists File and from Aljira's slide file. This year's SELECTIONS exhibition highlights the recent expansion of Artists Space's Artists File to include New Jersey artists while it introduces Aljira, A Center for Contemporary Art, in Newark, to a New York audience. Included in this exhibition are James Andrew Brown, NJ; Cicely Cottingham, NJ; Ming Fay, NY; Paul Gardère, NY; Renée Green, NJ; Zhang Hongtu, NY; Barbara Klein, NJ; Franc Palaia, NJ; John Salvest, NJ; Rafael Sanchez, NJ; Dui Seid, NY.

Like previous exhibitions in the SELECTIONS series, this show continues an established tradition of openness and discovery. Rather than imposing artificial strictures upon what is shown, the curator has chosen work which captures the diversity of art-making at this time. If a trend can be detected, it is one naturally configured to a society finally assessing the values of a problematic multi-cultural heritage. In addition to purely artistic or personal concerns, the political, social and ecological environment continue to impact in varying degrees upon the meaning of even the most formal works in the exhibition.

James Andrew Brown's art is one of ceaseless invention. This NJ artist produces shamanistic multi-media environments and totemic objects which balance private meanings with a distinctive formal presence.

Cicely Cottingham brings a density of poetic feeling to her small works on wooden panels. These paintings are affected by nature and are full of metaphoric possibilities.

Ming Fay's ambiguous sculpture relates to the environment. The burgeoning overgrowth of his fruits and vegetables suggests mutated plant life on the verge of animal sentience.

Paul Gardère, a Haitian-born painter, typifies the way artists have come to terms with their heritage, while holding on to the most useful visual aspects of contemporary modernism. The current multi-media works comment on young people in danger -- as moving targets for urban violence.

Renée Green creates strong literary and conceptual systems in order to deconstruct the history and culture of racism. The visual impact of her installations and objects serves to underscore the theoretical and socially charged meanings inherent in the work.

Zhang Hongtu's paintings and reliefs carry an impressive cultural and political weight. His experience of repression in China and censorship in his home, America, affects the emotional tone of his dark paintings occupied by a solitary head, hand or heart.

Barbara Klein's faith in the act of painting is evident in these works. Her surfaces (paper applied to panel) are

repeatedly scraped down and repainted until the subject, a sort of earthy, sublime order, reveals itself.

**Franc Palaia's** past work has focused on the homeless, and his most recent constructions involving photography and objects relate to the problems of hazardous waste dumps in his native New Jersey.

**John Salvest's** whimsical structures carry a poetic charge. Familiar objects such as a fireplace are completely filled with bright, red-tipped safety matches. This enigma causes one to think about the color red as a symbol for fire, and of the real possibility of a conflagration from the matches.

**Rafael Sanchez** has been consistent in his investigation of the work of art as a handcrafted object and as an object of desire. His series of paintings done with peanut butter and jelly is an elegant and humorous dissertation on our insatiable appetite for consumption.

**Dui Seid** confronts us with sculptures that seem to be flesh and blood -- stark evidence brought back from an unknowable frontier of the body.

Aljira was founded in 1983 by artists Victor Davson and Carl Hazlewood. Its primary focus is to promote emerging artists from the region while presenting a variety of programs that are culturally, ethnically and aesthetically inclusive.

Founded in 1974, the Artists File is a computerized slide registry of over 3,000 New York and New Jersey artists. The File is an active resource for Artists Space exhibitions and for projects by outside curators, gallery dealers, architects, art consultants and collectors. It is an important resource for artists who have limited means of showing their work; information in the File can be cross-referenced by style, medium, material, scale or demographics. The Artists File is updated each year and is open to artists and the public, free of charge.

Artists Space opens its doors on September 27, from 5-8pm, as part of the Tribeca Art Walk, a collaborative open house to present fall programming from the following Tribeca non-profit exhibition and performance spaces: Alternative Museum, Art In General, Artists Space, The Clocktower, The Drawing Center, Franklin Furnace Archive, Soho Photo, Ceres and Home For Contemporary Theatre & Arts.

Artists Space programs are made possible by: the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, Institute of Museum Services, New York State Council on the Arts, and New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; AT&T Foundation, Inc., The David Bermant Foundation: Color, Light, Motion, The Bohem Foundation, Cowles Family Charitable Trust, Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, Inc., Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, Jerome Foundation, The J.M. Kaplan Fund, The Dorothea L. Leonhardt Foundation, Inc., The Joe and Emily Lowe Foundation, Inc., The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, The Menemsha Fund, Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation, Betty Parsons Foundation, The Reed Foundation, Inc., The Mark Rothko Foundation, Inc., and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.; American Express Company, The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc., Equitable Real Estate Group, Inc., General Atlantic Corporation, R.H. Macy and Company, Inc., Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, Philip Morris Companies Inc., and U.S. Trust Company of New York; as well as Artwatch, Galleries in Support of Artists Space, and numerous Friends.

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