

ARTISTS SPACE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SELECTIONS FROM THE ARTISTS FILE

Organized by Connie Butler
Opening Reception: Thursday, September 28, 6-9pm
September 28-November 4, 1989
Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11-6

Artists Space is pleased to present **Selections**, an annual group exhibition organized from Artists Space's Artists File. Included in this exhibition are Michael James Asente, Tina Aufiero, Willie Cole, Esperanza Cortes, Taka Kawachi, Eric Rhein, Sean Scherer, Teddy Shapiro, Katherine Sherwood, and Jo Yarrington whose work represents a diversity of media and broad range of concerns in contemporary art making. This year's exhibition is organized by Artists Space Curator Connie Butler who selected from approximately 3000 artists in the Artists File and made an extensive series of studio visits. Though the exhibition specifically does not adhere to any particular theme or stylistic trend, these artists share an interest in social and political concerns, as well as issues of sexual difference and history. These themes are re-contextualized through the making of heavily crafted objects and the development of a highly personal mythology.

Tina Aufiero's metaphorical forms, ripe with associations of female stereotypes, and Teddy Shapiro's highly charged psychological landscapes, both speak of the complexity of human relationships and sexuality. The rich installation of Esperanza Cortes also confronts the struggle of humanity, particularly women, but through a cast of mythical and religious figures that are delicately carved and painted into the fragments and panels which structure the altar-like installation.

Eric Rhein and Willie Cole use found objects from the detritus of high and low culture each creating hybrid objects that elegantly and humorously transcend their original context. In an installation that incorporates found objects, sod, concrete and painted or sculpted elements on the wall, Jo Yarrington creates a contemplative space filled with references to ethnic cultures and forms in nature. Michael James Asente makes relief objects with rubber and light pieces which combine political icons and symbols from his family history.

Taka Kawachi, Katherine Sherwood and Sean Scherer's paintings speak of an obsession with surface and other formal issues. Kawachi draws on the history of German Romantic and Symbolist painting while Sherwood combines graphic images of modern defense and space technology with larger-than-life plant forms. Sean Scherer draws on the modernist dialogue in painting with an expansive cluster of small, abstract canvases.

Founded in 1974, the Artists file, a computerized slide registry of New York state, is available free of charge to users and artists. The Artists File has grown tremendously, not only in terms of the number of artists registered, but also in the quality of service it offers to both artists and users. The Artists File is a unique tool for curators and other art professionals to locate artists who do not show regularly in commercial galleries. Artists whose work is registered can be indexed demographically as well as by many categories such as subject, style, media and scale.



Artists Space is taking part in a special collaborative opening of Tribeca Arts organizations including Art in General, the Alternative Museum, Franklin Furnace, and the Clocktower. On September 28 from 6-9pm, each space will preview its Fall show.

Selections from the Artists File is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and Jerome Foundation.

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