

ARTISTS SPACE

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LAURIE ANDERSON TO PRESENT NEW WORK AT ARTISTS SPACE

**Opening September 19th, Exhibition Will Celebrate a Shared Anniversary
and Launch a Year of Special Exhibitions and Programs**

In its inaugural season in 1973, the non-profit arts exhibition venue known today as Artists Space invited the noted conceptual artist Vito Acconci to select an almost unknown colleague for a showcase in its galleries. Acconci chose a young woman whose experimental mixed-media work he had recently discovered. Her name was Laurie Anderson. In conjunction with her debut exhibition, Anderson performed a work titled *As:If* on an improvised stage at 155 Wooster Street, playing a violin and reciting a script before a screen of projected images. Her skate-clad feet were embedded in blocks of ice; a microphone was taped under her arm for the debut.

Twenty-five years later, Laurie Anderson is an internationally admired artist widely credited with having pioneered territories of performance, audio and video art, and pop music that are now heavily traveled by a younger generation. She was among the first to fuse mediums in a trans-disciplinary approach to artmaking and commentary on the interface of public and private life; in its frankness, singularity and wit, her oeuvre is particularly American. Since her debut at Artists Space, the institution has also evolved – as a laboratory, agent provocateur, defender of artists' rights, and meeting place – into a model for alternative arts venues around the world.

In celebration of their shared anniversary, Artists Space and Laurie Anderson will once again collaborate. Opening to the public on September 19th, the exhibition **Laurie Anderson: Whirlwind** is a homecoming of sorts, an exhibition conceived by Artists Space to provide audiences with an intimate look at Anderson's unique vision and to celebrate her impact in artmaking over the past twenty-five years. **Laurie Anderson: Whirlwind** will remain on view at the institution's 38 Greene Street galleries through November 7, 1998.

Laurie Anderson: Whirlwind will feature *Handphone Table*, an installation first exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in 1978. This well-known interactive piece will be presented as a point of reference for Anderson's current work: *Whirlwind*, a three-dimensional interactive sound installation conceived by Anderson in 1996, will be presented here for the first time in the United States. Visitors' presence will activate *Whirlwind*, which the artist describes as "a very private sound experience...where sonic pictures are created." Another component of the exhibition will be an audio-visual work entitled *Book*, part of a work-in-progress by the artist.

Artists Space will host an opening reception for **Laurie Anderson: Whirlwind** on Saturday, September 19th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public.

Beginning with the public opening of **Laurie Anderson: Whirlwind**, Artists Space will present a year-long series of programs, special events and new initiatives that celebrate its first quarter century and its essential role in the artistic history of New York from the early 1970s to the present. Artists Chuck Close, Nan Goldin, Kiki Smith, Elizabeth Murray, Bernard Tschumi and Ellen Gallagher will curate exhibitions of work by emerging colleagues. Artists Space will reintroduce its artists grants program. Two major New York City museums will salute the institution with programs of their own. And the monumental commemorative book *5,000 Artists Return to Artists Space: 25 Years* will be released to the public.

Artists Space is located on the third floor of 38 Greene Street, between Broome Street and Grand Street, in the SoHo district of Manhattan. Its galleries are open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Members of the public seeking information about exhibitions and other programs, or who wish to make an appointment to access the Irving Sandler Artists File, may obtain information by telephoning Artists Space at 212/226.3970.

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For additional press information or to obtain photographs, please contact Andrea Schwan at 212/873.3284.