

ARTISTS SPACE

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Laurie Palmer
WINTER FLUSH: A TEMPORARY GARDEN

Selected by Judith Russi Kirshner

March 2 - April 1, 1989

Opening Reception: Thursday, March 2, 6-8pm

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11-6

Winter Flush: A Temporary Garden is a botanical installation that will include the cultivation of "pleurotus ostreatus," a species of wild mushroom. Chicago artist, Laurie Palmer, will build a cold frame greenhouse environment outfitted with humidifiers and a convection system in which mushroom spawn will be allowed to grow. Mushroom fruition is always a trial and error endeavor, even among professional growers, and the piece is meant to function, as Palmer explains, as a "framing structure for faith, hope, patience - for waiting for, and believing in, something that we can't control."

Winter Flush will also include "excessively and deliberately sentimental" decorative wall pieces that involve the slow percolation and accumulation of salt. Palmer has used salt in other recent installations, as well as water, peat, dirt, sand, daikon, turnips, cooked cabbage, and apples. These materials have been situated on shelves, in desks or in suitcases, and in certain works, have been stimulated by water, vaporisers and electricity. Palmer combines these materials in order to pursue her ongoing exploration of the themes of growth, decay and erosion.

Judith Russi Kirshner is a critic and curator living in Chicago where she is also an Associate Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. This exhibition is the fourth in Artist Space's series of "Projects" which highlight the work of individual artists.

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