Eight Urban Painters

Contemporary Artists of the East Village

JULY 9 - SEPTEMBER 27, 1986

THE FINE ARTS CENTER ART GALLERY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK
INTRODUCTION

As real estate prices in SoHo have continued to soar, New York's East Village — from Houston Street to 14th Street and from Second Avenue to the East River — has emerged as the home, workplace, and marketplace of hundreds of aspiring young artists who have begun to make their voices heard over the past several years. That some of the galleries lining the crowded streets of the East Village are less than elegant in appearance is a reflection not only of the tough urban sensibilities of the artists whose works are displayed therein but of the low-rent origins of the Manhattan neighborhood itself.

Despite the many generalities that have been written about the blossoming East Village scene in recent years, it would be wrong to assume that the various artists who live and work in the neighborhood comprise a single "school" of artistic expression. As any survey of these various artists and their works should make abundantly clear, the artists of the East Village are a highly diverse group of individuals with very distinct ideas who work in a wide range of artistic modes and styles. To lump these artists together as spokespersons for any single artistic vision is to ignore that which is most special and unique about each artist's work.

The delicately luminescent, Kandinsky-like abstractions of Futura 2000, for example, are clearly of a very different character from the idealized pastoral imaginings of Cheryl Laemmle, whose distinctly modern works nevertheless seem to evoke the spirit of 19th century American landscape painting. Similarly, the sumptuously kitsch-framed romantic paintings of Rhonda Zwilinger bespeak an artistic vision quite unlike that of Peter Drake, whose work so effectively conjures up the paranoia of contemporary urban existence. The hard-edged images of David Wojnarowicz convey political statements that are as far removed from the seemingly serene world of Martin Wong's building facades as Kevin Larmee's impressionistic subway scenes are from the expressionistic, bright-colored paintings of Layman Foster. All are expressions of the urban reality as perceived by the artists of the East Village, but how that reality is filtered through each artist's unique sensibilities makes for a fascinating diversity of artistic statements.

Eight Urban Painters features some of the very best of the many artists now working in the East Village. Some of these artists have already exhibited around the world and received widespread recognition; others are just beginning to be recognized as important figures in the East Village art scene. We are privileged to have the opportunity to present this exhibition of their works to the Stony Brook community.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to the eight artists and to the collectors and galleries who have generously agreed to participate in this exhibition. In particular, I want to thank Jonas and Pamela Aarons; Martin Hason, Allyson Marks, and Bruce Polin, Avenue B Gallery; Elaine Terner Cooper; Harriet and Lester Lipton; Gracie Mansion, Sur Rodney, and Eva Lundsager, Gracie Mansion Gallery; A.G. Rosen; Barry Blinderman and Karen Brown, Semaphore Gallery; Annie Herron, Semaphore East Gallery; and Deborah Sharpe and Katherine Chapin, Sharpe Gallery.

Thanks are also due to all those involved with the organization and installation of the exhibition. I especially want to thank Linda Wien, Assistant Curator, and Stephen Larese, Department of Art Specialist and member of the Gallery's Exhibitions Committee. Thanks are also extended to Janet Kulesh, Art Consultant, for her support and encouragement. Special thanks are also due to members of the Fine Arts Center staff: Mark Ferguson, Michael Giangrasso, Arja Hihrala, David Luljak, and George Olson, Art Gallery Assistants; Gary Floyd, Technical Director, and Jay Strevey, Assistant Technical Director, for exhibition lighting; and Mary Balduf, Art Gallery Secretary.

Rhonda Cooper
Director

Eight Urban Painters:

Peter Drake
Layman Foster
Futura 2000
Cheryl Laemmle
Kevin Larmee
David Wojnarowicz
Martin Wong
Rhonda Zwilinger

Photo credits: ©1986 James Dee (Kevin Larmee)
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©1986 Adam Reich (Futura 2000, Martin Wong)

Cover design: Stephen Larese

©1986, Fine Arts Center Art Gallery, State University of New York at Stony Brook.
Peter Drake

Sticks, 1985
Ink on paper, sanded. 60 x 96"
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

Born 1957, Long Island, New York
Education: Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY (B.F.A., 1979)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
1986  Michael Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1985  Sharpe Gallery, NYC
1984  Limbo Lounge, NYC
      Sharpe Gallery, NYC
1983  Josef Gallery, NYC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
      Exhibition Hall, Copenhagen, Denmark
      and Lunds Konsthall, Lund, Sweden
1985  57th Between A & D, Holly Solomon
      Gallery, NYC
      El Arte Narrativo, P.S. 1, Long Island City,
      NY (traveled from Tamayo Museum,
      Mexico City, Mexico)
      Summer Pleasures, Nancy Hoffman
      Gallery, NYC

Layman Foster

Cafe Society, 1986
Oil on canvas, 52 x 68"
Lent by the artist

Born 1952, Speedway, Indiana
Education: Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
        (B.F.A., 1978)
        John Herron School of Art, Indianapolis, IN
        (1974)

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
1985  Figurative Abstract Painting, Jamie Szoke
      Gallery, NYC
1984  Ida Busy Resting, Greathouse Gallery, NYC
      East Village Show, P.S. 1, Long Island City,
      NY
1983  Army Terminal Show, Brooklyn, NY

THEATRE PROJECTS
1985  Gilly Rose, Ensemble Studio Theater, NYC
1984-85  Gertrude Stein's Ida, New York University
         Theater on the Park, NYC
1984  Rap Snap, Children's Dance Theatre, NYC
Futura 2000

Untitled, 1986
Spray enamel and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 72"
Courtesy Semaphore Gallery

Cheryl Laemmle

Zuni & Me, 1984
Oil on canvas with wooden fence, 84 x 72"
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

Born 1955, New York New York
Education: City College of New York, NYC (1973)
New York Community College, NYC (1972)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
1986 Semaphore Gallery, NYC
1985 Michael Kohn, Los Angeles, CA
1984 Fun Gallery, NYC
Yaki Kornblit, Amsterdam
Tony Shafrazi Gallery, NYC
1983 Fun Gallery, NYC
Four Blue Squares, San Francisco, CA
Yvon Lambert, Paris, France
Yaki Kornblit, Amsterdam
Baronian/Lambert, Ghent, Belgium
51X Gallery, NYC
1982 Fun Gallery, NYC
FNAC, Strasbourg, France

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
1986 Semaphore East, NYC
1985 Flow Ace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Missing Children Show, The Kentucky
Lithograph Building, Louisville, KY
Fun Gallery West, San Francisco, CA
Frank Bernavucci, NYC

Born 1947, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Education: Washington State University, Pullman, WA (M.F.A., 1978)
Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA (B.A., 1974)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
1986 Sharpe Gallery, NYC
1984 Sharpe Gallery, NYC
1983 Barbara Toll Fine Arts, NYC
1982 Texas Gallery, Houston, TX
1980 P.S. 1, Special Projects Room,
Long Island City, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
1986 The Best and the Brightest from the East
Village and Soho, Moosart Gallery,
Miami, FL
Landscape, Seascape, Cityscape, New
Orleans Center for Contemporary Art,
New Orleans, LA
Natural Settings, Corcoran Gallery of Art,
Washington, DC
Artificial Paradise, Asher / Faure Gallery,
Los Angeles, CA
57th Between A&D, Holly Solomon Gallery,
NYC
Kevin Larmee

The Clock (4:15), 1983
Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 96”
Courtesy Avenue B Gallery

Born 1946, Ridgefield, New Jersey
Education: Columbia College, Chicago, IL (1974)
San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA
(1967-68)
Shimer College, Mt. Carroll, IL (1965-67, 69-70)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
1985 LARMEE-Paintings, Avenue B Gallery, NYC
1984 Off the Wall, Avenue B Gallery, NYC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
1986 Public and Private: American Prints Today,
The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
The East Village, Fashion Institute of Technology, NYC
East Village ’86: The Best of The East Village,
Avenue B Gallery, NYC
1985 Forshpeiz, Avenue B Gallery, NYC
Contemporary Visions 1985, Zolla/Leberman
Gallery, Chicago, IL
Micro Wave, NOW Gallery, NYC

David Wojnarowicz

Space Totem, 1983
Acrylic on found wood, 79” long
Lent by Elaine Terner Cooper
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

Born 1954, Redbank, New Jersey

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
1986 Gracie Mansion Gallery, NYC
Messages to the Public, Times Square
Spectacolor Board, NYC
1984 C.A.Y.C., Buenos Aires, Argentina
Civilian Warfare, NYC
Anna Friebre Galerie, Cologne, West Germany
Gracie Mansion Gallery, NYC
1983 Hal Bomm Gallery, NYC
Civilian Warfare, NYC
1982 Milliken Gallery, NYC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
1986 The All Natural Disaster Show, The Bronx
Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY
A Survey of Recent Trends in East Village Art,
Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australia (traveling to
University of Melbourne)
The East Village, Fashion Institute of
Technology, NYC
1985 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of
American Art, NYC
A Brave New World - A New Generation -
40 New York Artists, Copenhagen,
Denmark and Lund, Sweden
Martin Wong

Voices, 1981
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 48"
Collection of the artist
Courtesy Semaphore Gallery

Born 1949, Brooklyn, New York
Education: Self-taught

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
1986 Semaphore East Gallery, NYC
1985 Semaphore East Gallery, NYC
1984 Semaphore Gallery, NYC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
1985 Photosynthesis, One Penn Plaza, NYC
Works on Paper, Semaphore East Gallery, NYC
Precious, Grey Art Gallery and Study Center, New York University, NYC and Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA
Ten Chinatown, Asian Arts Institute, NYC
East Village at Centre, Centre Saidye Bronfman, Montreal, Quebec
Urban Landscapes, Semaphore East Gallery, NYC
Bacchanalia, New York Public Library, Tomkins Square Branch, NYC

Rhonda Zwillinger

Harriet and Lester, 1985
Oil on wood with mixed media frame, 19" diameter
Lent by Harriet and Lester Lipon
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

Born 1949, Portland, Oregon
Education: Self-taught

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
1986 Gracie Mansion Gallery, NYC
Carpenter Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY
Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE
Civilian Warfare, NYC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
1986 A Brave New World - A New Generation - 40 New York Artists, Copenhagen, Denmark and Lund, Sweden
Installation, Cartier Foundation, Paris, France
The East Village, Fashion Institute of Technology, NYC
New York-New Work, Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE
Precious, Grey Art Gallery and Study Center, New York University, NYC and Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA
EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

Artists are listed in alphabetical order. All dimensions are given in inches, height preceding width preceding depth. Works marked with an asterisk are illustrated in this catalogue.

PETER DRAKE
*Sticks, 1985
Ink on paper, sanded, 60 x 96 inches
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

LAYMAN FOSTER
*Cafe Society, 1986
Oil on canvas, 52 x 68 inches
Lent by the artist

LAYMAN FOSTER
Play the Game, 1985
Oil on canvas, 48 x 60 inches
Lent by the artist

LAYMAN FOSTER
Self Portrait, 1985
Oil on panel, 39 x 48 inches
Lent by the artist

FUTURA 2000
Untitled, 1985
Spray enamel and acrylic on canvas, 60 x 48 inches
Courtesy Semaphore Gallery

FUTURA 2000
Untitled, 1986
Spray enamel and acrylic on canvas, 50 x 60 inches
Courtesy Semaphore Gallery

FUTURA 2000
*Untitled, 1985
Spray enamel and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 72 inches
Courtesy Semaphore Gallery

CHERYL LAEMMLE
Two Sisters, 1984
Oil on canvas with wooden fence, 56 x 84 inches
Lent by A.G. Rosen
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

CHERYL LAEMMLE
Wisteria Mo, 1983
Oil on canvas with wooden fence, 56 x 84 inches
Private Collection
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

CHERYL LAEMMLE
*Zuni and Me, 1984
Oil on canvas with wooden fence, 84 x 72 inches
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

KEVIN LARMEE
*The Clock (4:15), 1983
Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 96 inches
Courtesy Avenue B Gallery

KEVIN LARMEE
The Clock (5:05), 1984
Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 96 inches
Courtesy Avenue B Gallery

DAVID WOJNAROWICZ
Jean Genet Masturbating in Metteray Prison, 1983
Silkscreen, 34 x 25 inches
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

DAVID WOJNAROWICZ
*Space Totem, 1983
Acrylic on found wood, 79 inches long
Lent by Elaine Terner Cooper
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

DAVID WOJNAROWICZ
True Myth, 1983
Silkscreen, 34 x 25 inches
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

MARTIN WONG
Los Sonambulos, 1984-85
Acrylic on canvas, 55 x 31 inches
Courtesy Semaphore East Gallery

MARTIN WONG
Voices, 1981
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 36 x 36 inches
Collection of the artist
Courtesy Semaphore East Gallery

MARTIN WONG
*Voices, 1981
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 48 inches
Collection of the artist
Courtesy Semaphore East Gallery

RHONDA ZWILLINGER
*Harriet and Lester, 1985
Oil on wood with mixed media frame, 19 inches diameter
Lent by Harriet and Lester Lipton
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

RHONDA ZWILLINGER
Valor, 1985
Oil on wood with mixed media frame, 19 inches diameter
Lent by Jonas and Pamela Aarons
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery
PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS AT THE ART GALLERY

1975  FACULTY EXHIBITION
1976  MICHELLE STUART
       RECENT DRAWINGS (AN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS EXHIBITION)
       SALVATORE ROMANO
1977  MEL PEKARSKY
       JUDITH BERNSTEIN
       HERBERT BAYER (AN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS EXHIBITION)
1978  LEON GOLUB
       WOMEN ARTISTS FROM NEW YORK
       JANET FISH
       ROSEMARY MAYER
       THE SISTER CHAPEL
1979  SHIRLEY GORELICK
       ALAN SONFIST
       HOWARDENA PINDELL
       ROY LICHTENSTEIN
1980  BENNY ANDREWS
       ALEX KATZ
       EIGHT FROM NEW YORK
       ARTISTS FROM QUEENS
       OTTO PENE
       STONY BROOK 11. THE STUDIO FACULTY
1981  ALICE NEEL
       55 MERCER 10 SCULPTORS
       JOHN LITTLE
       IRA JOEL HABER
       LEON POLK SMITH
1982  FOUR SCULPTORS
       CECILE ABISH
       JACK YOUNGERMAN
       ALAN SHIELDS
       THE STONY BROOK ALUMNI INVITATIONAL
       ANN MCGY
1983  THE WAR SHOW
       CERAMIC DIRECTIONS: A CONTEMPORARY OVERVIEW
       CINDY SHERMAN
       THE FACULTY SHOW
1984  BERNARD APTEKAR ART AND POLITICS
       ERIC STALLER: LIGHT YEARS
       NORMAN BLUHM: SEVEN FROM THE SEVENTIES
       EDWARD COUNTEY: 1921-1984
       CARL ANDRE: SCULPTURE
1985  LEWIS HINE IN EUROPE: 1918-1919
       FRANCESC TORRES: PATHS OF GLORY
       HOMAGE TO BOLOTOWSKY: 1933-1981
       FREEDOM WITHIN: PAINTINGS BY JUAN SANCHEZ INSTALLATION BY ALFREDO JAAR
       ABSTRACT PAINTING REDEFINED
1986  KLEE GE METAL SCULPTURE
       TOBY BUNAGURO: SELECTED WORKS
       YANG YEN-PING AND ZENG SHAN-QING

Director ........................................ RHONDA COOPEI

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK
THE FINE ARTS CENTER

art gallery