

The New Museum

OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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News

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EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

Exhibition **A Labor of Love**

Date January 20 - April 14, 1996 (please note that this is a new closing date)

Description: A Labor of Love presents works by over forty contemporary American artists who use handmade folk or craft oriented processes in creating complex artworks. Forms of beading, glassblowing, woodcarving, ceramics, weaving, embroidery, painting, drawing, and quilting are among the techniques employed, challenging traditional definitions of fine art, folk art, outsider art, and craft. A Labor of Love features work which melds process and product, sensuous appeal and critical content, tradition and innovation.

Inventive materials mark many of the artists' works: Raymond Masterson creates embroidery using thread unraveled from Orlon socks; Michael Harms carves miniature chairs out of soap; and Nöle Guilini makes slippers of sewn banana peels. Other artists use more traditional materials and processes in unusual ways: a six-foot ceramic totem by Sana Musasama; a carved wooden dresser with intricate drawers of different sizes by Kazumi Tanaka; and detailed pencil drawings of plant roots by Willie Wayne Young.

The meticulous detail employed by these artists renders objects as if invested with ritualistic significance: "voodoo" figures by Alan Belcher; fanciful, cartoon-like dolls by Faith Ringgold; and ceramic angels by Kukuli Velarde. Many works

are products of labor-intensive activities. Artist Liza Lou took over five years to construct a full size kitchen and to cover every square inch with colorful beads.

The works are arranged in generic domestic environments such as a living room and a dining room, where visitors are encouraged to sit down and make themselves at home. For one's listening pleasure, there will be recorded and live folk music programs about labor and laborers, featuring traditional American songs of the field, mine, railroad, prison, and mill, deriving from Anglo, Latino, African, Asian, and Native American traditions. In the Museum's Window on Broadway, razor cuts, manicures, and body painting will be offered to interested visitors.

Artists

Chelo Amezcua, Imogene Jessie Goodshot Arquero, Alan Belcher, Robert Brady, Darren Brown, Betty Burgoyne, Larry Calkins, Rene David Chamizo, Dale Chihuly, Pier Consagra, Cply, Jacob El Hanani, Tom Emerson, Diana Frid, Bessie Harvey, Carmen Lomas Garza, Chuck Genco, Nöle Guilini, Michael Harms, Mary Heilmann, Oliver Herring, Indira Johnson, Jane Kaufman, Larry Krone, Paul Laffoley, Dinh Q. Lê, Liza Lou, Michael Lucero, Raymond Materson, Josiah McElheny, Sana Musasama, Richard Notkin, Manuel Pardo, Elaine Reichek, Faith Ringgold, Achilles Rizzoli, Diego Romero, Richard Rule, Alison Saar, Kevin Sampson, Beverly Semmes, Judith Shea, Kazumi Tanaka, Kukuli Velarde, Willie Wayne Young, Robin Winters, Margaret Wharton, Daisy Youngblood.

Organized

A Labor of Love is organized by Museum director Marcia Tucker.

Public Programs

Panel Discussion

How do viewers, critics, dealers, historians, and other arts professionals contribute to the perception of folk and craft as the "other" of fine art? This panel discussion will explore the contested categories of folk, craft, "outsider," and high art, and how those categories are established, perpetuated, and transgressed. Panelists include Harryette Mullen, professor of English at UCLA who has written about African-American quilts, and Tomas Ybarra-Frausto, associate director for the arts and humanities at the Rockefeller Foundation,

who has published works on Latin American literary theory and Chicano visual art and culture. Other panelists will be announced.

Thursday, February 1, 1996, 6:30 p.m.

Tickets \$7 general, \$5 artists, students, seniors.

Doll Workshops

Two doll making workshops for adults will be taught by Lisa Bradley and Larry Krone, artists who merge craft and fine art traditions and methods in their own work. Participants are invited to display their finished dolls in the exhibition.

Saturday, February 10 and 24, 1996, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Free with Museum admission.

Catalogue The fully-illustrated exhibition catalogue includes a critical and historical essay by Marcia Tucker; symposium proceedings; photographs of each artist's work; a selected bibliography; concise biographies in narrative form written by the artists; and an exhibition checklist.

Support Presentation of A Labor of Love is made possible by grants and donations from the New York State Council on the Arts, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Peter Norton Family Foundation, and Arcorp, Inc. The New Museum is supported, in part, with funds from the Jerome Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and from the Museum's Director's Council, members, and friends. A portion of the Museum's general operating funds for this fiscal year has been provided through a generous grant from the Institute of Museum Services, a Federal Agency.

Museum Information The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Houston and Prince Streets in SoHo. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday: Noon to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday: Noon to 8:00 p.m., 6:00-8:00 p.m. free; Monday and Tuesday, closed. Admission is \$4 general; \$3 artists, students, seniors; members and children under 12, free. For recorded information, please call 212.219.1355.