

# THE NEW MUSEUM

65 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK 10003 (212) 741-8962

## SUSTAINED VISIONS

April 23 - June 23, 1979

GAYLEN C. HANSEN, CLAIRE MOORE and SALVATORE SCARPITTA have maintained consistent and individual visions throughout their long careers. They are mature artists of considerable reputation, but theirs is a reputation established and maintained by their peers -- that is, they are "artists' artists," admired, respected and often emulated by their colleagues as well as by younger artists for whom their integrity and commitment - despite the lack of public approbation and critical acclaim for their work -- have been a constant source of inspiration.

All three artists have worked in isolation, either geographically or esthetically. None has attempted a radical break from tradition or tries to establish a new formal vocabulary. Rather, each has drawn extensively from personal visual sources as well as from art history, attempting to adhere to private impulses and intentions rather than to the dictates of taste or fashion. There is a certainty, a lack of equivocation in their work which makes it unique and distinctly unselfconscious.

### GAYLEN C. HANSEN (b. 1921)

Gaylen Hansen grew up in Northern Utah and studied art at several universities between 1939 and 1950. During this period he held teaching positions in various university art departments before moving to Pullman, Washington in 1957.

Hansen's move to this rural area provided an isolated atmosphere which contributes to a folk or primitive appearance of his landscape and profile figures. His attitudes, associations, and manipulations, which appear fresh and unpretentious, are translated visually into paint.

### CLAIRE MOORE (b. 1917)

A native New Yorker, Claire Moore has studied art in both New York and San Francisco. Her prolific output is ordered in separate, carefully conceived series, all in a narrative idiom. Combining words and images in drawings and paintings through a multitude of subjects and themes enables her to embrace certain thoughts, moods, and facts which would not be possible by employing one without the other.

Moore's drawings as handwriting celebrate the beauty of individual gestures as a primary vehicle for personal images.

SALVATORE SCARPITTA (b. 1919)

Born in New York City and educated in California and Rome, Italy, Scarpitta utilizes various painted three-dimensional forms, often wrapped in canvas strips, to make recognizable objects such as sleds or racing cars, or to construct abstract paintings. His work can be divided into four distinct groups: constructed and wrapped paintings made before 1963; six racing cars and a military reconnaissance vehicle fabricated from 1964 to 1973; sled and bin paintings executed from 1973 through 1977; and currently, his constructed and bound paintings.

In all of his work, the subjects often dramatize the artist's reminiscences, fantasies, and aspirations; Scarpitta's intention is to draw out and capture the specific nature of everything he makes.

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