

PRESS RELEASE

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NEW MUSEUM LOBBY AND WINDOW INSTALLATION AGES VISITORS BY 25 YEARS

The Age Machine, an interactive installation which ages participating visitors 25 years through a computer program that simulates the aging process, will be installed in the lobby of The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York from January 15 through April 19, 1992. Museum visitors are invited to use the machine in the lobby while their "aged" images appear on video monitors in the Broadway Window. Created by artist Nancy Burson in collaboration with David Kramlich, The Age Machine scans a face or portrait and ages it in 30 seconds using digital conversion and a personal computer.

Nancy Burson has had a long history with technologically derived portraits which examine such identity issues as gender, age, and race. Experimentation with make-up, drawings, and interviews with plastic surgeons inspired Burson to conceive The Age Machine. In its early years, the Machine was bound by limited technology, but with advances such as storing still images and computer manipulation, the project came to life in the mid-1980s. The portraits produced by The Age Machine illustrate a physical change believed to occurr over a period of time. In so doing, the images address society's emphasis on youth and beauty, while making reference to life experiences that cannot be predicted visually through a rigidly systematic process.

<u>The Age Machine</u> is a project of The New Museum's On View Program, which is funded, in part, by the Jerome Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets in Soho. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday: noon to 6:00 PM; Friday and Saturday: noon to 8:00 PM; Monday and Tuesday, closed. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$3.50 general; \$2.50 artists, students, seniors; members and children under 12, free. For recorded information please call 212/219-1355.