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## INSTALLATION EXAMINING SPIRITUALITY/SEXUALITY TO OPEN AT THE NEW MUSEUM

My Spirit, an installation by Seattle-based artist Jeffrey Mitchell, will be on view at The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York from January 15 to April 19, 1992. This installation addresses the phenomenon of individual spirituality and the origin of sexual desire through an examination of childhood innocence, gender development, material and social surroundings, and psychological identity.

Using materials such as rubber, plaster, and latex, Mitchell questions the traditional materials of historical artworks dealing with spirituality, such as marble and bronze. In so doing, My Spirit enables itself to be viewed within a contemporary setting, therefore underscoring the ever-evolving qualities of personal identity and sexuality. The use of familiar objects, such as cartoon figures and toy creatures, combined with food-like textured materials, such as plaster, inspires the viewer to consider the material world in which we live and the possibility of a world not so clearly visible. Additionally, this installation's employment of repetitive, decorative icons reads as kitsch in a profoundly comforting manner, unlike much of this century's critique of domesticity. My Spirit encapsulates the core of modern-day sexuality by collectively addressing death, food, kitsch, and spirituality without isolating any of these factors or drawing conclusions from them.

*My Spirit 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.*

*Recorded information may be obtained by calling 212/219-1355.*