

Contact: Sara Palmer, Director of Public Affairs
Steven Henry, Public Affairs Assistant
212/219-1222

TWO PROGRAMS ADDRESSING ART AND POLITICS TO BE PRESENTED IN JUNE AT THE NEW MUSEUM

The New Museum of Contemporary Art will present two programs in June that examine the relationship between politics and art. These programs will be held in conjunction with the current exhibitions "Nancy Spero: Works Since 1950" and Common Land/Greenham, an installation by Margaret Harrison, on view through July 9, 1989.

On Thursday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m., British writer and critic Jon Bird will give a lecture addressing cultural activity under the conservative government of Margaret Thatcher. The lecture, entitled "A Tale of Two Sites: The Best of Times--The Worst of Times," will explore some of the ramifications in the shift in Britain from state support to private support of the arts. In particular, Mr. Bird will discuss the recent restructuring of the Victoria and Albert Museum in which curators were replaced by administrators to manage its collection of 3 million objects. He will also speak on the development of the Docklands area, a London neighborhood that has long been a thriving community of artists and is now being rapidly transformed by a massive development project by Olympia & York, the real estate developers also responsible for the World Financial Center in New York.

Mr. Bird is a founding editor and contributing editor of Block magazine in England. He has written extensively on contemporary culture and art in Block, Artscribe and Art Monthly. In 1987 he organized a major exhibition of work by Nancy Spero for the Institute of Contemporary Art in London.

On Wednesday, June 14 at 7:30 p.m., The New Museum will host "A Conversation With Nancy Spero, Margaret Harrison and Jo-Anna Isaak." Art historian and critic

Jo-Anna Isaak will lead an informal discussion touching on issues of feminism and art with American artist Nancy Spero and British artist Margaret Harrison. Both of these artists have exhibitions on view at The New Museum.

Nancy Spero is a major American artist whose work has consistently stood outside of the main currents of the art world. Her passionate Vietnam work of the 1960s confronted the dominant, cerebral art of Minimalism; her current paper works, in their fragility and delicacy, contrast the explosive, large-scale paintings of the 1980s. "Nancy Spero: Works Since 1950" is the first comprehensive exhibition in the United States of Spero's art.

Margaret Harrison's work has often examined the interface between culture, landscape and the political implication of land use. For The New Museum, she has created Common Land/Greenham, an installation based on the eight-year women's encampment protesting the U.S. Air Force base at Greenham Common near London. Through paintings, texts and constructions, Common Land/Greenham addresses issues of power, property and gender.

Tickets for these two programs are four dollars for New Museum members and six dollars for the general public. Because seating is limited, reservations are strongly suggested and can be made by calling 212/219-1222.

Funding for "A Tale of Two Sites: The Best of Times--The Worst of Times" and "A Conversation With Nancy Spero, Margaret Harrison and Jo-Anna Isaak" was provided in part by grants from The New York State Council on the Arts 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 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: noon to 8 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday: closed. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$2.50 general; \$1.50 artists, students, seniors; members and children under 12 admitted free.

Recorded information concerning exhibitions and programs at The New Museum may be obtained by calling 212/219-1355.