

George Calderaro, The Studio Museum  
Sara Palmer, The New Museum  
Nilda Peraza, MoCHA

### THREE NY MUSEUMS COLLABORATE FOR GROUND-BREAKING EXHIBITION ON THE 1980s

The Decade Show: Frameworks of Identity in the 1980s, an unprecedented collaborative exhibition on the art and issues of the 1980s, will be presented from May through August 1990 at the Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Studio Museum in Harlem. More than 200 works by 94 American artists of Asian, Hispanic, African, European, and Native American heritage will be featured in this ground-breaking exhibition. In addition, the project will include a performance series, three panel discussions, a public forum, and a major catalogue.

The collaboration for The Decade Show was initiated two years ago by the directors of the three museums: Nilda Peraza of MOCHA, Marcia Tucker of The New Museum, and Kinshasha Holman Conwill of The Studio Museum. The exhibition is issue-oriented, focusing on the major concerns of the 1980s as they relate to the idea of identity. Rather than a stylistic overview, The Decade Show explores a multiplicity of approaches to the theme expressed in a variety of cultural practices, from the visual to the performing arts. Emerging as a hybrid and fluid notion, identity will be seen as it relates to larger questions of sexuality, the environment, race, religion, history, myth, and politics. The Decade Show will be fully multicultural with works loosely grouped by theme at each museum. The artwork—ranging from sculpture, painting, and photography to installations, videos, and collaborative, interdisciplinary, and public art projects—questions and criticizes how dominant culture determines identity. Some of the artists featured will be Ida Applebroog, Luis Cruz Azaceta, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Albert Chong, Robert Colescott, Edgar Heap-of-Birds, Group Material, Alfredo Jaar, Ana Mendieta, David Hammons, Barbara Kruger, Adrian Piper, Richard Prince, Martin Puryear, Andres Serrano, Liliana Porter, and Krzysztof Wodiczko. [NOTE: Complete list of artists is attached.] The artists have been jointly selected by Julia Herzberg, Associate Curator, MOCHA; Laura Trippi and Gary Sangster, Curators, The New Museum; and Dr. Sharon Patton, Chief Curator, The Studio Museum.

In recognition of the multiplicity of performance genres that emerged and developed during the 1980s, a major element of The Decade Show will be a six-evening performance series held at

## COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITION ON THE '80s AT THREE NY MUSEUMS/2/2/2

Dance Theater Workshop, and The Studio Museum during June. Featured performers will include Kathy Acker, DanceNoise, Jimmie Durham, Ethyl Eichelberger, Guillermo Gomez-Pena, John Kelly, Robbie McCauley with Jeannie Hutchins, Alva Rogers and Lisa Jones, Merien Soto and Pepon Osorio, and Carmelita Tropicana.

Another major component of The Decade Show will be a three-part series of panel discussions—followed by an open forum—aimed at stimulating discussion among critics, historians, artists, scholars, and the general public on major concerns of the 1980s. Topics include "The Canon: Issues of Inclusion, Exclusion and Dissolution;" "High Art/Street Culture: Cultural Practices in the 1980s;" and "Perspectives on Multiculturalism." The panel discussions and open forum will take place every Tuesday evening in June. [NOTE: Complete schedule and list of participants are attached.]

A comprehensive, 400-page, fully-illustrated catalogue, with an introduction by the directors of the three museums, will accompany The Decade Show. Thematic essays addressing all aspects of the project will be contributed by a range of authorities: the curators of the exhibition; feminist art historian Eunice Lipton; Village Voice critic C. Carr; art historian Judith Wilson; Lowery Sims, Curator, Metropolitan Museum of Art; Margo Machida, recent recipient of a Rockefeller Foundation grant to document Asian American artists; Latin American scholar Susana Torruella Leval; performance artist and writer Guillermo Gomez-Pena; art critic David Deitcher; artist Jimmie Durham, former Ambassador to the United Nations for the American Indian Nation; and Micki McGee, video curator at Artists Space. The catalogue will also include a chronology of events of the 1980s, a photo essay, and a bibliography.

The Decade Show has been generously funded by grants from The Henry Luce Foundation, Inc. and the Rockefeller Foundation. Additional funding was provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, AT&T, and the New York Council for the Humanities.

The Decade Show will be open to the public at The New Museum of Contemporary Art (583 Broadway) from May 12 through August 19; at the Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art (584 Broadway) from May 16 through August 18; and at The Studio Museum in Harlem (144 West 125th Street) from May 18 through August 19. A free shuttle bus will run between Soho and Harlem every Saturday from May 19 to August 18.