

# *The Decade Show*

Frameworks  
of Identity  
in the 1980s

MUSEUM OF  
CONTEMPORARY  
HISPANIC ART  
May 16 to August 19, 1990

THE NEW MUSEUM  
OF CONTEMPORARY  
ART  
May 12 to August 19, 1990

THE STUDIO  
MUSEUM  
IN HARLEM  
May 18 to August 19, 1990

# THE DECADE SHOW is a

collaborative, issue-oriented exhibition of works produced during the 1980s. It was conceived and developed by three institutions: The Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art, The New Museum of Contemporary Art, and The Studio Museum in Harlem. The show includes the work of ninety-four visual artists, plus video and performance artists from diverse backgrounds. Through their examination of familiar issues—homelessness, gender, racism, sexism, AIDS, homophobia, media, politics, the environment, and war—these artists demonstrate that identity is a hybrid and fluid notion that reflects the diversity of American society.

Rather than a stylistic overview, THE DECADE SHOW is an issue-oriented exhibition focusing on the major concerns of the 1980s as they relate to the idea of identity. In the galleries of the three participating museums and through a series of interpretive programs and essays, one will glimpse perspectives on recent history that have often been ignored or overlooked by mainstream historical analyses. THE DECADE SHOW in this respect is a proclamation that “history” is not objective and that the American experience is much more heterogeneous than generally asserted.

The work included in this exhibition may be seen as material evidence of alternate viewpoints. Many artists of color, for example, in their philosophical, aesthetic, and

spiritual linkages to the precolonial societies of Africa, Asia, and America, legitimize diversity, resist Eurocentric domination, and create a foundation from which to analyze and explain contemporary social phenomena. Feminist, gay, and lesbian artists similarly affirm that there are other ways of seeing, ways equal to existing cultural dictates.

Therefore, while collectively addressing the phenomenon of exclusion, these artists draw upon varying combinations of personal experience, heritage, gender, sexuality, and political and philosophical viewpoints in interpreting the issues before them. Working individually or in groups, they address the theme of identity in thought-provoking and sometimes disturbingly frank imagery—that sometimes contradicts, and at other times jostles, our perceptions of history, morality, and contemporary society.

THE DECADE SHOW is thematically divided into six categories: at The Studio Museum in Harlem, themes of social practices/cultural criticism and history/memory/artifact; at the Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art, themes of biography/autobiography and sexuality/gender; at The New Museum of Contemporary Art, themes of myth/spirituality/nature and discourse/media. Works in the exhibition often relate to two or more of these themes and can be explored on many levels.

THE DECADE SHOW's development was both exhilarating and arduous.

The exhibition is an amalgam of the resources, talents, and perspectives of three institutions with different missions, goals, audiences, and commitments. The three museums came together not to provide an encyclopedic account of artists, events, and viewpoints generally omitted by major arts institutions and publications, but to testify to and celebrate cultural diversity. Through the works of exhibiting artists, interpretive panel discussions, performances, videos, and literature, this exhibition seeks to create dialogue among diverse segments of the American population. This process, though sometimes jarring, disorienting, or even painful, is a crucial one for social healing and transformation.

*"The dream behind THE DECADE SHOW was for it to be a common celebration of the different cultures of our communities—on our own terms. The reality is that it is an explosion. Finally, the marginalized aesthetics that have for years been developing parallel to the mainstream are at center stage. The exhibition is a product of a collaboration that has brought the three institutions to a new understanding of our similarities and, even more so, of our differences."*

NILDA PERAZA

Director, Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art

*"More than anything else, THE DECADE SHOW collaboration has given our three organizations and constituencies a chance to both speak openly and listen to each other in a new way. The exhibition itself is the result of a lengthy, complex, and rewarding process of struggling to identify ourselves—as individuals, as colleagues, as institutions—and at the same time identify with the larger issues of social, cultural, political, and historical identities. The product, like the process that produced it, is fluid, dynamic, multiple, unpredictable, and, above all, challenging to the status quo."*

MARCIA TUCKER

Director, The New Museum of Contemporary Art

*"Perhaps we can say that the mission of our undertaking is far greater than making better known those artists and ideas that have too often been ignored, or at best only surveyed. THE DECADE SHOW has been a collaboration in the deepest sense of the word, a meeting of diverse minds in a spirit of generosity and goodwill. In this show we not only express our views of what transpired during a critical ten year period across a broad community of artists—but we also address what is still very current, and in looking back, provide a means of looking forward."*

KINSHASHA HOLMAN CONWILL

Director, The Studio Museum in Harlem



## Public Programs

A four-part series of public forums will be held in conjunction with THE DECADE SHOW.

LOCATION	The Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York, 33 West 42 Street (between Fifth and Sixth Avenues), lower level auditorium.
SUBWAY	7th Avenue line #1, #2, or #3 Lexington Avenue line #4, #5, or #6 6th Avenue line B, D, Q, or F
BUS	M-5, M-6, M-7
ADMISSION	Free

### *THE CANON: ISSUES OF INCLUSION, EXCLUSION, AND DISSOLUTION* *Tuesday, June 5, 7PM*

The issue of multiculturalism and the canon has been traditionally defined as a struggle for the inclusion of underrepresented groups. Yet during the 1980s the very existence of the canon, by definition an exclusionary structure, has come under attack. This panel will bring together individuals with diverse perspectives on inclusion, exclusion, and dissolution.

*Marimar Benitez*, Commissioner of Public Affairs, San Juan, Puerto Rico  
*David Deitcher*, historian and art critic  
*John Kuo Wei Tchen*, historian  
*Judith Wilson*, art historian and teacher of African American art at Syracuse University  
Moderator: *Keith Morrison*, artist

### *HIGH ART, STREET CULTURE: CULTURAL PRACTICES IN THE 1980s* *Tuesday, June 12, 7PM*

The 1980s was a time of cross fertilization between the public and private realms, as artists incorporated vernacular forms into their work and brought new artistic languages into galleries and museums. It was also a time in which many artists turned their attention to alternative functions of art, placing their work in public view and engaging in cultural activism. These developments will be discussed from historical, sociological, and artistic points of view.

*Clyde Casey*, head of Another Planet, Los Angeles  
*Sandra Fabara (Lady Pink)*, artist  
*Flora Kaplan*, director, Museum Studies Program, New York University, author of a forthcoming book on graffiti and subway art  
*Yolanda Lopez*, head of the Mission Cultural Center, San Francisco, and artist  
*Robert Farris Thompson*, professor, Yale University  
Moderator: *Marcia Tucker*, Director, The New Museum of Contemporary Art

### *PERSPECTIVES ON MULTICULTURALISM* *Tuesday, June 19, 7PM*

During the 1980s the term "multiculturalism" became associated with an ideal of social relations. This panel will raise questions about the ways in which multiculturalism has manifested itself in the arts. How does the notion of multiculturalism embrace certain populations or marginalize them? How well are the interests of historically marginalized groups really being served?

*Bill Aguado*, executive director, Bronx Council on the Arts, New York  
*Robert Lee*, director, Asian American Arts Centre, New York  
*Howardena Pindell*, artist  
*Joan Sandler*, northeast regional representative for the National Endowment for the Arts  
*G. Peter Jemison*, artist  
Moderator: *Nilda Peraza*, Director, Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art

### *OPEN FORUM* *Tuesday, June 26, 7PM*

THE DECADE SHOW and its public programs address many issues and have aroused various emotions. In this program the public is invited to respond to what they have seen and heard, to ask questions of the participating institutions, and to put forth their recommendations for the resolution of problems and issues discussed in the show.

Moderator: *Kinshasha Holman Conwill*, Director, The Studio Museum in Harlem

## Performance Schedule\*

### DTW'S BESSIE SCHONBERG THEATER

219 West 19th Street, New York

Wednesday, June 6, 1990

*Merian Soto and Pepon Osorio*, Dance/Performance  
*Ana Castillo*, Reading  
*Ishmael Houston-Jones*, Dance  
*Guillermo Gómez-Peña*, Performance

Thursday, June 7, 1990

*Rafael Montañez Ortiz*, Performance  
*Alva Rogers and Lisa Jones*, Performance with music  
*David Zambrano*, Dance  
*Ethyl Eichelberger*, Performance

Friday, June 8, 1990

*Dan Kwong*, Performance  
*Lydia Lunch and Emilio Cueiro*, Performance  
*Kaylynn Sullivan Two Trees*, Performance  
*Reno*, Stand-up comedy

Saturday, June 9, 1990

*John Kelly*, Performance  
*Jimmie Durham*, Performance/Reading  
*Kathy Acker*, Reading  
*DanceNoise*, Performance

### THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM

Friday, June 15, 1990

*Cecilia Vicuña*, Poetry Reading  
*Roger Shimomura*, Performance  
*Carmelita Tropicana*, Performance  
*David Wojnarowicz*, Reading

Saturday, June 16, 1990

*David Chung*, Theater  
*Michael Smith*, Performance  
*Robbie McCauley with Jeannie Hutchins*, Performance

A free shuttle-bus will leave The New Museum of Contemporary Art and Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art at 7:00 PM for performance evenings at The Studio Museum in Harlem. The bus will return at the end of the performance.

## The Decade Show Artists

### MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY HISPANIC ART

Carlos Alfonzo, Emma Amos, Ida Applebroog, Tomi Arai, Louis Bernal, Maria Brito-Avellana, Fred Brown, Josely Carvalho, Ken Chu, Houston Conwill, John Coplans, Leon Golub, Martha Jackson-Jarvis, Mary Kelly, Pok-Chi Lau, Margo Machida, Néstor Millán, Yong Soon Min, Tyrone Mitchell, Bruce Nauman, Howardena Pindell, Arnaldo Roche, Cindy Sherman, Laurie Simmons, Coreen Simpson, Nancy Spero, Jorge Tacla, Christian Walker, Richard Ray Whitman, Martin Wong

### THE NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Jean-Michel Basquiat, Dara Birnbaum, Albert Chong, Emilio Cruz, Judite dos Santos, Epoxy Art, Eric Fischl, Vanalyne Green, Sachiko Hamada, Maren Hassinger, Jenny Holzer, Alfredo Jaar, Luis Jimenez, Leandro Katz, Komar & Melamid, Louise Lawler, George Longfish, Yolanda López, Chip Lord, Ana Mendieta, Catalina Parra, Howardena Pindell, Adrian Piper, Liliana Porter, Richard Prince, Tim Rollins & K.O.S., Martha Rosler, Betye Saar, Raymond Saunders, Andrés Serrano, Lorna Simpson, Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, Kaylynn Sullivan Two Trees, Cecilia Vicuña, Kay Walkingstick, Pat Ward Williams, David Wojnarowicz, Bruce Yonemoto, Norman Yonemoto

### THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM

Max Aguilera-Hellweg, John Ahearn, Luis Cruz Azaceta, Miriam Beerman, Joan Braderman, Maria Brito-Avellana, Beverly Buchanan, Shu Lea Cheang, David Chung, Robert Colescott, Jaime Davidovich, Melvin Edwards, Ismael Frigerio, Gran Fury, John Greyson, Group Material, Guerrilla Girls, Hans Haacke, David Hammons, Edgar Heap-of-Birds, Reginald Hudlin, G. Peter Jemison, Phillip Mallory Jones, Komar & Melamid, Barbara Kruger, Joseph Lewis III, James Luna, Amalia Mesa-Bains with Victor Zumudio-Taylor, Branda Miller, Sherry Millner, Tom Nakashima, César Paternosto, Martin Puryear, Nick Quijano, Daniel Reeves, Faith Ringgold, Alison Saar, Ben Sakoguchi, Juan Sánchez, Jaune Quick-To-See Smith, Haim Steinbach, Testing the Limits Collective, Rigoberto Torres, Sarah Tuft, Edin Velez, Ethel Velez, Krzysztof Wodiczko

\*All performance evenings begin at 8:00 PM.  
For ticket information call Dance Theater Workshop, Box Office (212) 924-0077 and The Studio Museum in Harlem (212) 864-4500.

## Museums

### MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY HISPANIC ART

584 Broadway (between Prince and Houston Streets),  
7th floor, (212) 966-6699

**HOURS** Tuesday through Saturday 11-5,  
Thursday 11-8, Closed Sunday  
and Monday.

**ADMISSION** Adults \$2 Suggested Donation,  
Seniors \$1, Children Free.  
Tours may be arranged by calling  
the Museum at (212) 966-6699.

### THE NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

583 Broadway (between Prince and Houston Streets)  
(212) 219-1222

**HOURS** Wednesday, Thursday,  
and Sunday 12-6,  
Friday and Saturday 12-8,  
Closed Monday and Tuesday.

**ADMISSION** Adults \$3.50 Suggested  
Donation, Artists/Students/  
Seniors \$2.50, Members and  
Children under 12 Free.  
Tours may be arranged by calling  
the Docent and Group Tour  
Coordinator at (212) 219-1222.

### THE STUDIO MUSEUM IN HARLEM

144 West 125th Street (212) 864-4500

**HOURS** Wednesday, Thursday, and  
Friday 10-5, Saturday and  
Sunday 1-6, Closed Monday  
and Tuesday.

**ADMISSION** Adults \$2, Students/Children  
(under 12) \$1, Seniors (free on  
Wednesday) \$1, Members free.  
Tours may be arranged by  
calling the Education Depart-  
ment at (212) 864-4500.

## Transportation

To:  
MUSEUM OF  
CONTEMPORARY  
HISPANIC ART  
and  
THE NEW MUSEUM  
OF CONTEMPORARY  
ART

**SUBWAY** Lexington Avenue line #6 to  
Spring Street or Bleecker Street  
Broadway line  
N or R to Prince Street  
8th Avenue line  
A, C, or E to Spring Street  
6th Avenue line  
B, D, Q, or F to Broadway-  
Lafayette

**BUS** M-1, M-5, M-6, or M-21 to  
Broadway and Houston Street

To:  
THE STUDIO  
MUSEUM  
IN HARLEM

Take any of the following to the 125th Street stop:

**SUBWAY** 8th Avenue line  
A, B, C, D  
7th Avenue line  
#2 or #3  
Lexington Avenue line  
#4, #5, or #6

**BUS** M-2, M-7, M-10, M-100,  
M-101, M-102, or BX-15

Shuttle-bus service between the three museums will operate every Saturday. The first bus will leave from the New Museum of Contemporary Art and Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art at 1:00 PM and run continuously every other hour between the two museums and The Studio Museum in Harlem. The last trip will return to The Studio Museum at 5:00 PM. On Friday June 15 and Saturday June 16 the bus will be available between museums for the performance evenings at The Studio Museum in Harlem. Please inquire in each museum's lobby for more information.

Funding for the education programs has been provided in part by the New York Council for the Humanities and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Other funding for the exhibition and programs has been provided by The Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., Rockefeller Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and AT&T Foundation.

Programs at The New Museum of Contemporary Art receive operating support from the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York Department of Cultural Affairs.

Operation of The Studio Museum in Harlem's facility is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York Department of Cultural Affairs.