

The New Museum

OF CONTEMPORARY ART

583 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10012 (212) 219-1222

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Contact: Charlayne Haynes
Katie Clifford
tel. 212-219-1222
fax 212-431-5328

News

Media Preview
Thursday, January 26
12-2 p.m.
refreshments

THE NEW MUSEUM PRESENTS **ANDRES SERRANO: WORKS 1983-1993**

First Major Museum Exhibition of Artist's Work at Mid-Career

January 27-April 9, 1995

Andres Serrano: Works 1983-1993, the first major museum exhibition of New York artist Andres Serrano, features 50 large-scale photographs from a prolific ten-year period. Opening on January 27 and on view through April 9, 1995, this mid-career survey offers the public an opportunity to view Serrano's imagery--including his most sensationalized pieces--in the context of a consistent body of work that critically investigates notions of religion, violence, homelessness, racism, beauty, mortality, and the body.

The only funding for The New Museum's exhibition comes from the Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., which gave a generous grant to present this provocative artist's work.

Important works from each of the artist's thematic series will be presented, including the early series of allegorical tableaux with figures and props in dramatically staged settings; the "bodily fluid" series of blood, milk, urine, and semen in abstract compositions; the "immersion" series of classical and religious statuettes in some of those "host" fluids; a series of portraits of sitters ranging from Church clerics and members of the Ku Klux Klan to the homeless of New York City; the "Morgue" series of human cadavers identified by their cause of death; and, shown for the first time, a selection from the "Objects of Desire" series.

*Interviews with the artist may be arranged through the Public Relations department.
Slides and black and white photos are available upon request.*

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Throughout his eclectic work, Serrano uses a complex visual language intended to subvert artificial boundaries between photography and painting, abstraction and representation. He initially adopted a theatrical style partly influenced by Surrealist filmmakers such as Buñuel and Fellini, then moved on to a variety of experiments using classical and Christian icons, and forms of abstract composition, still life, and portraiture.

Using the high-key color and gloss finish of the Cibachrome print popularized by commercial advertising in the 1980's, Serrano often combines a seductive style with charged cultural content, challenging viewers to consider meanings beyond the photograph's immediate symbolism.

Born in 1950 and raised in Brooklyn, Serrano, at seventeen, entered the Brooklyn Museum of Art School where he studied painting and sculpture for two years. He began to show his work in the early eighties both independently and in collaboration with the artist collective Group Material. At The New Museum of Contemporary Art, he has shown in the group exhibitions Past. Present. Future (1984); Fake: A Meditation on Authenticity (1987); Strange Attractors: Signs of Chaos (1989); and The Decade Show: Frameworks of Identity (1990).

The fully-illustrated catalogue Andres Serrano: Works 1983-1993, with essays by Patrick T. Murphy, Wendy Steiner, Robert Hobbs, and Marcia Tucker, is a publication of the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, and is available at The New Museum bookstore.

Andres Serrano: Works 1983-1993 was originally organized by Patrick T. Murphy, director of the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania. The exhibition and catalogue were made possible by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.; Henry S. McNeil, Jr.; Lynn and Harold Honickman; Ella B. Schaap; an anonymous donor; and the board, friends, and members of the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. In 1995, this exhibition will travel to the Center for the Fine Arts, Miami; the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. A short video accompanies the exhibition, produced by the Education Department of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, featuring interviews with Marcia Tucker, Brian Wallis, and Andres Serrano.

Two Public Programs will be presented in conjunction with the exhibition: Dialogue with artist Andres Serrano and independent curator and critic Bruce Ferguson takes place on Thursday, **February 23**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and, Symbols of Power and States of Anxiety, a conversation between cultural producers and critics on the symbolic and real power of contemporary institutions, will be held on Thursday, **March 2**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission to each program is \$7.00 general, and \$5.00 for students, seniors, members. Tickets are sold in advance at the Admissions Desk during Museum hours; no reservation or ticket orders will be taken.

A Teacher Workshop, Images of Illusion: Exploring the Visual Metaphors of Andres Serrano, conducted by Carmen Bardeguéz, a published poet, writer, and history teacher at Satellite Academy High School in Queens, New York, will be held on Saturday, **February 4**, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and is free with Museum admission. For further information and to R.S.V.P., please call 212-219-1222. *Note: We strongly recommend that teachers preview the exhibition before bringing their students.*

Presentation of Andres Serrano: Works 1983-1993 is made possible by a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., and support from the Director's Council, members, and supporters of The New Museum of Contemporary Art. The New Museum is supported, in part, with funds from the Jerome Foundation, the New York State Council for the Arts, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Museum's general operating funds for this fiscal year has been provided through a generous grant from the Institute of Museum Services, a Federal Agency.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Houston and Prince Streets in SoHo. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday: Noon to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday: Noon to 8:00 p.m., 6:00-8:00 p.m. free; Monday and Tuesday, closed. Admission is \$4 general; \$3 artists, students, seniors; members and children under 12, free. For recorded information, please call 212-219-1355.