

The New Museum

OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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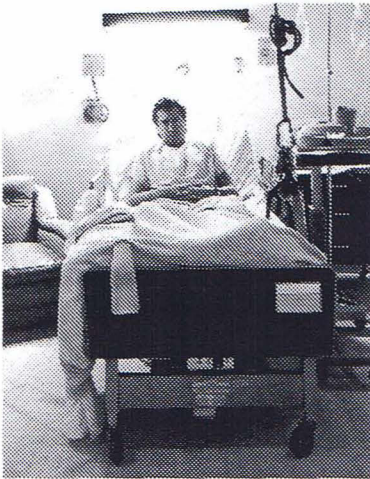
News

Media Preview
Thursday, September 22
12-2 p.m.
refreshments

Visiting Hours

An installation by Bob Flanagan in collaboration with Sheree Rose
Has Its East Coast Premiere at The New Museum of Contemporary Art
September 23-December 31, 1994

Bob Flanagan in *Visiting Hours*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, 1992



In Visiting Hours, Los Angeles poet, performance, and visual artist Bob Flanagan, with his companion, photographer Sheree Rose, reflects on his life-long struggle with cystic fibrosis and invites visitors to consider complex connections between pleasure and pain.

Suggesting a fantastical hospital setting, Visiting Hours unfolds through autobiographical texts, performance documentation, thematic environments, sculptures, toys, and play areas. At the center of the exhibition is a small hospital room where Flanagan, in bed and dressed in a hospital gown, holds visiting hours for the public. Here, visitors are welcome to talk with the artist about any issues they wish to raise.

"I was born with a genetic illness," Flanagan writes, "that I was supposed to succumb to at two, then ten, then twenty, and so on. And, in a never-ending battle not just to survive but to subdue my stubborn disease, I've learned to fight sickness with sickness." Now in his early 40's and one of the oldest survivors of cystic fibrosis, Flanagan at a young age discovered a way to derive pleasure from a life experience shaped by pain, embracing an extreme masochism. Through body piercing, bondage, and other consensual sadomasochistic practices, Flanagan has counterbalanced suffering from physical illness, and his masochism emerges paradoxically as a life affirming response.

As visitors witness the links between sexual pleasure and physical pain that inform Flanagan's autobiography, they are led to consider other issues, such as the uses of discipline and violence in today's society, the role of film and television in shaping our most intimate experience, and, ultimately, the inescapability of death.

Bob Flanagan's work builds on traditions from the 1970s such as the body art of Chris Burden and Linda Montano's art of every day life. The author of six books including Slave Sonnets and A Taste of Honey

with David Trinidad, Flanagan is also allied with contemporary writers like Dennis Cooper, who is one of his influences. But Flanagan has forged from his "sickness" a singular practice and style that is also informed by Hollywood, Disney, and rock music culture. In multiple mediums, Flanagan's work combines sobering content with wit, humor, and disarming honesty.

Flanagan will reside in the installation during public hours from September 23-November 13. From November 16-December 23, a special video made by Flanagan and Rose will play on the wall-mounted monitor in the hospital room in his absence. Flanagan returns for a final week in residence to conclude the exhibition December 28-31. Visiting Hours was originally presented at the Santa Monica Museum of Art and is organized for presentation at The New Museum by Curator Laura Trippi.

Note: Teachers are strongly recommended to preview the exhibition before bringing their students.

Public Programs presented in conjunction with Visiting Hours are: ***The Submissive Moment: Pleasure and the Politics of Pain***, on Friday, October 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m., a panel discussion with Arthur Jafa, filmmaker; Karmen MacKendrick, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Gettysburg College; Tricia Rose, critic of contemporary culture and politics, Professor of African Studies and History at New York University; and Julia Scher, artist. And, ***An Evening of Readings*** on Tuesday, November 1, 6:30-8:30 P.M. with artist Bob Flanagan, performance artist Ron Athey, and writer Carol Queen. Admission to both programs is \$7.00 general, \$5.00 students, seniors, members. Tickets are sold in advance at the Admissions Desk during Museum hours; no reservation or ticket orders. For further information, please call 212-219-1222.

Two workshops are also being offered: ***How to Teach the Unteachable: The Art of Bob Flanagan***, a Teacher Workshop on Thursday, October 13, 4:00-6:00 p.m., free with Museum admission. And, ***Writing as an Art of Healing***, a Student Poetry Writing Workshop on Thursday, October 27, 4:00-6:00 p.m., free to students. Both workshops are conducted by Carmen Bardeguez, a published poet, writer and history teacher at Satellite Academy High School in Queens, New York. For further information and to R.S.V.P., please call 212-219-1222.

Presentation of Visiting Hours in the Main and New Work Galleries is made possible by generous support from The Lannan Foundation and The Norton Family Foundation. A poster for the exhibition, including a signed limited edition, has been made available courtesy of the Robert J. Shiffler Collection. The New Museum of Contemporary Art 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.

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UPDATED LISTING

News

Contact: Katie Clifford
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Dates: September 23-December 31, 1994

Title: Visiting Hours

Artists: Bob Flanagan in collaboration with photographer Sheree Rose

Organizer: Visiting Hours was originally presented at the Santa Monica Museum of Art and is presented at The New Museum by curator Laura Trippi.

Description: Visiting Hours, an installation by Los Angeles poet, performance, and visual artist Bob Flanagan and his companion, Sheree Rose, explores Flanagan's life-long struggle with the pain of cystic fibrosis and his pursuit of pleasure through masochism. This exhibition unfolds through performance, photography, video, sculpture, and texts by the artist.

From **September 23-November 13**, Flanagan will be present in the installation, in bed inside a simulated hospital room where visitors can talk with him. A video of his "hospital stay" will be played back **November 16-December 23**. Flanagan will return to conclude the exhibition **December 28-31**.

Programs: The Submissive Moment: Pleasure and the Politics of Pain. Panel discussion with **Arthur Jafa**, filmmaker; **Karmen MacKendrick**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Gettysburg College; **Tricia Rose**, critic of contemporary culture and politics, Professor of African Studies and History at New York University; and **Julia Scher**, artist. Friday, October 21, 6:30-8:30 P.M. Tickets: \$7 general, \$5 students, seniors, members. For more information, call 219-1355.

An Evening of Readings with Bob Flanagan, Ron Athey, and Carol Queen. **Bob Flanagan**, performance artist **Ron Athey**, and writer **Carol Queen** read from their work. Tuesday, November 1, 6:30-8:30 P.M. Tickets: \$7 general, \$5 students, seniors, members. For more information, call 219-1355.

Bob's Birthday Party. Join Bob Flanagan and Sheree Rose for a celebration of Bob's 42nd birthday. Wednesday, December 28, 6:30-9:30 P.M. Free

"How to Teach the Unteachable: The Art of Bob Flanagan," Teacher Workshop, Thursday, October 13, 4:00-6:00 P.M. Free with Museum admission.

"Writing as an Art of Healing," Student Poetry Writing Workshop, Thursday, October 27, 4:00-6:00 PM. Free for students.

Support: Visiting Hours is made possible by generous support from **The Lannan Foundation** and **The Norton Family Foundation**. A poster for the exhibition, including a signed limited edition, has been made available courtesy of **Robert Shiffler**. Partial funding is provided by the **New York State Council on the Arts**.

On View Programs

Dates: **September 23-December 31, 1994**

Window on Broadway

Title: Who Are We? What Are We? Where Did We Come From?

Artist: Rita Ackermann

Organizer: Curator Laura Trippi

Description: Rita Ackermann transforms The New Museum's Window on Broadway into a *faux* stained-glass painting depicting a post-apocalyptic paradise where adolescent girls are intravenously linked to computers and sleek animals cry pools of tears.

WorkSpace Gallery

Title: Courage

Organizer: David Leslie

Description: A program of short videos documenting "acts of courage" selected from a nationwide call for videos presented with additional clips from broadcast and archival sources. Courage is continuously screened in WorkSpace Gallery.

WorkSpace Gallery

Title: Self-Help Library
Organizer: Cathy Busby
Description: A collection of books surveying the self-help industry's forty-year history of naming new afflictions and prescribing steps to emotional recovery. Believers and skeptics can browse through this archive of several hundred books for information, amusement, or "to get in touch" with the hypochondriac within.

Support: Support for the On View Program is provided by the **Jerome Foundation**. Additional support for the Self-Help Library is provided by the **Canadian Consulate General/New York**. Partial funding is provided by the **New York State Council on the Arts**.

THE NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, Noon to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, Noon to 8:00 p.m.; Monday and Tuesday, closed.

Admission: Admission is \$4.00 general; \$3.00 artists, seniors, students; Members and children under 12, free. Free on Saturdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Information: Recorded information may be obtained by calling (212) 219-1355.