

The New Museum

OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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News

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

Courage

A video program by Guest Curator David Leslie on view in the WorkSpace Gallery

September 23-December 31, 1994

"Courage. Got some? Know someone who does? Can you get it on tape?" That's what guest curator David Leslie asked when he sent out a nationwide call for short videos. Courage is a video patchwork of colorful clips indicating the ways that issues of bravery and even heroism inform people's daily lives. Selections have been gathered from contributions across the country and a wide variety of sources, including home videos, tapes by artists and professional videographers, and broadcast and archival footage. Presented to complement Bob Flanagan's Visiting Hours, Courage will be shown in a continuous screening in WorkSpace Gallery during Museum hours.

Leslie, a self-described "impact addict," has been called the "Evel Knieval of Performance Art" based on his history of daredevil performances during the 1980s. Now retired from daredevilry, his past performances circulate in video form for presentation in performance spaces and in film and video festivals in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

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Self-Help Library: Four Decades of Pain Management in North America

An installation by Cathy Busby in the WorkSpace Gallery

September 23-December 31, 1994

Have you ever browsed a bookstore's self-help section, convinced that you've been suffering from Attention Deficit Disorder and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, only to begin to wonder whether what you really have is the Peter Pan or Cinderella Complex? Picturing lives drenched in emotional pain, self-help books promise problem free futures through pain management and endless roads to recovery. In the Self-Help Library, an installation by Montreal-based writer and artist Cathy Busby, visitors can skim several hundred titles that pinpoint the symptoms of emotional aches and pains chronicled by the four decade-old recovery industry in North America. Promise of transformation through easy formulas is suggested by many titles such

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as Awaken the Giant Within and Release From Guilt and Fear. Presented as a complement to Bob Flanagan's Visiting Hours, the Self-Help Library indicates that pain is a widespread preoccupation within popular culture and that pain management, with a distinct history, remains a growth industry.

Support for the Self-Help Library has been provided, in part, by the Canadian Consulate General/New York. 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 PM; Saturday: Noon to 8:00 PM, 6:00-8:00 PM 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.