

Contact: Terrie Sultan, Director of Public Affairs
Sara Palmer, Public Affairs Assistant
212/219-1222

ANA MENDIETA RETROSPECTIVE ON VIEW AT THE NEW MUSEUM

"Ana Mendieta: A Retrospective," the first museum exhibition of the work of this artist, will be on view November 20, 1987 through January 24, 1988 in the main gallery at The New Museum of Contemporary Art.

Mendieta once wrote, "I make the art I make because it is the only kind I can make. I have no choice." Her work--from performance art to site-specific pieces to the most recent objects created in the studio--expresses her intense bond to nature and the spiritual world.

Born in Havana, and sent by her family to the United States prior to the Cuban revolution, Mendieta lived in Iowa where in 1969 she began graduate studies in painting at the University of Iowa's School for Art and Art History. Involved in the University's progressive multimedia and video art program, Mendieta came in contact with some of the most significant conceptual/performance artists of the time. The emerging feminist movement also influenced Mendieta's thinking as she abandoned painting and developed her first performance pieces. Mendieta began to employ her body as both symbol and medium and to explore expressions of her interest in the mythic forces of nature. These concerns remained constant throughout her career, as did her use of natural materials such as grass, earth, stones and tree trunks in the fabrication of her works.

ANA MENDIETA RETROSPECTIVE AT THE NEW MUSEUM
2-2-2

Mendieta died in 1985 at the age of 36 as she was engaged in her most mature and important work. This exhibition traces her career through color photographs of the site specific "Silueta" series, black and white photographs of works located in Cuba and features drawings on leaves, standing and floor sculptures created in her studio in Rome, several works consisting of carved or burnt tree trunks and videotape documentation of various performance works. The accompanying illustrated catalogue--bilingual in English and Spanish--includes essays by guest curators Petra Barreras del Rio, director of El Museo del Barrio and John Perreault, visual arts director of Snug Harbor Cultural Center. The artist's chronology and a comprehensive annotated bibliography complete this publication, the first extensive investigation of Mendieta's life and work.

This exhibition has been made possible, in part, by generous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and the New York State Council on the Arts. Additional support was provided by Art Matters Inc., the Estate of Ana Mendieta, and Art Print of Taylor, Pennsylvania. Exhibitions and programs at The New Museum have received generous assistance from The New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and many corporations, foundations, individuals and Museum members.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets in Soho. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday: noon to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: noon to 8 p.m. The Museum is closed on Monday and Tuesday. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$2.50 general; \$1.50 artists, students and seniors; members and children under 12 admitted free.

EDITORS NOTE: THE NEW MUSEUM WILL NO LONGER BE OPEN UNTIL 10 P.M. ON FRIDAY EVENINGS. WEEKEND HOURS ARE FRIDAY AND SATURDAY: NOON TO 8 P.M.

Contact: Terrie Sultan, Director of Public Affairs
Sara Palmer, Public Affairs Assistant
212/219-1222

ART LISTINGS EDITORS PLEASE NOTE

TITLE: ANA MENDIETA: A RETROSPECTIVE

DATES: November 20, 1987 through January 24, 1988

LOCATION: The New Museum of Contemporary Art
583 Broadway, New York

DESCRIPTION: The first major museum exhibition of work by Ana Mendieta. Exhibition includes drawings on leaves; floor and free-standing sculpture; works comprised of burnt and carved tree trunks; photographic documentation of several site-specific works located in the United States and Cuba; videotape documentation of performance pieces. Bilingual English and Spanish catalogue accompanies. Guest curators for the exhibition are Petra Barreras del Rio, director of El Museo del Barrio, and John Perreault, visual arts director of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center.

HOURS: Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday: noon to 6 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: noon to 8 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday: closed

ADMISSION: By suggested contribution: \$2.50 general; \$1.50 artists/students/seniors; members and children under 12 admitted free.

Contact: Terrie Sultan, Director of Public Affairs
Sara Palmer, Public Affairs Assistant
212/219-1222

"THE GREAT GODDESS DEBATE" TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NEW MUSEUM

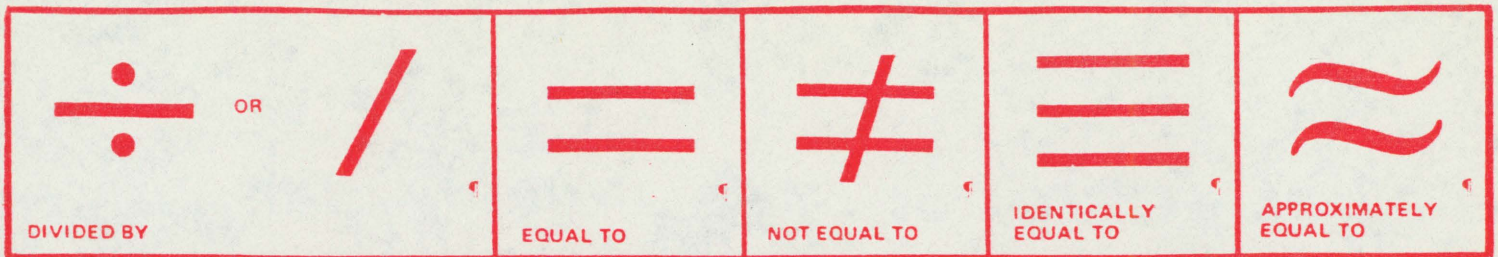
"The Great Goddess Debate: Spirituality versus Social Practice in Recent Feminist Art," a panel discussion, will be held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8 in the gallery at The New Museum of Contemporary Art. The panel is being presented in conjunction with the Museum's current exhibition, "Ana Mendieta: A Retrospective," which is on view through January 24, 1988.

The panelists include artist Lyn Blumenthal, art historian Rosalyn Deutsche, art critic and curator Kate Linker, art critic Arlene Raven and artist Nancy Spero. Art historian and critic Judith Wilson will moderate.

Although Mendieta's work raises many issues pertaining to this debate, the purpose of the panel is not to focus on Mendieta's work per se, but rather to explore current directions in feminist art in a larger context. In the course of the evening, panelists will consider the ramifications of the spiritual tradition in feminist art. Since the early days of the women's movement, many artists, citing such sources as prehistoric matriarchal societies and ancient goddess religions, have reclaimed old rituals and symbols and created new ones in order to reflect distinctly female experience. The controversy centers around defining universal female experience, since such definitions, critics say, are determined by social constructs. The panelists, in their writing or in their art, have all played integral roles in this ongoing debate.

Admission to the panel is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for Museum members.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway, between Prince and Houston Streets in Soho. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday: noon to 6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: noon to 8 p.m. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$2.50 general; \$1.50 artists, students and seniors; members and children under 12 free.



"THE GREAT GODDESS DEBATE: SPIRITUALITY VERSUS SOCIAL PRACTICE IN RECENT FEMINIST ART"
a panel discussion

Lyn Blumenthal
Kate Linker
Nancy Spero

Rosalyn Deutsche
Arlene Raven
Judith Wilson

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

8 PM

\$5 general

member \$3

The New Museum
of Contemporary Art
583 Broadway
212-219-1222

