

# The New Museum

OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Charlayne Haynes  
Robert Blanchon  
212/219-1222 Fax: 212/431-5328

## **GROUP "PAINTING" EXHIBITION EXAMINING ABSTRACTION AND SKIN TO OPEN AT THE NEW MUSEUM**

Skin Deep, a group exhibition with Peter Hopkins, Byron Kim, Lauren Szold, and Jack Whitten, whose works reinterpret the forms and issues of abstraction through reference to skin, will be on view at The New Museum of Contemporary Art from January 15 through April 11, 1993. Organized by Assistant Curator Alice Yang, works in this exhibition recall the dynamic and process-oriented character of traditional abstract painting, while simultaneously exploring conceptual elements of contemporary abstraction. Although the works are nonfigurative in a strict sense, they share an allusion -- metaphorically, structurally, and politically -- to the body and its skin.

Peter Hopkins's luminous, abstract paintings are created by pouring various fluids such as industrial dyes, Cherry Coke, and Pepto Bismol on bed sheets. In Hopkins's work, painting becomes a kind of social body layered with cultural waste. Byron Kim produces pristine monochromes in the tradition of minimalist, abstract painting. He bases his palette, however, not on pure colors but on the flesh tones of individuals raising questions of cultural and racial identity. Taking mixtures of flour, eggs, and other organic substances, Lauren Szold works directly on the floor. Her "spills," a combination of painting, drawing, and floor sculpture, suggest, in their rosy tints and sense of fluidity, the material processes of the body. Jack Whitten's paintings consist of small building blocks of paint, which are made by pouring paint on plastic, cutting it into squares, and attaching the squares to canvas in a grid-like structure. His paintings bridge the forms of drip and grid paintings, and refocus the viewer's attention on the skin of paint that is the fundamental basis of all painting.

Both Byron Kim and Lauren Szold will create site-specific projects for Skin Deep, while Peter Hopkins and Jack Whitten will contribute paintings produced in recent months.

*The On View Program is funded in part by the Jerome Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Special support for Skin Deep is provided by Dorothy Sahn Siegal.*

*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; Monday and Tuesday, closed. Admission is \$3.50 general; \$2.50 artists, students, seniors; members and children under 12, free.*

*Recorded information may be obtained by calling 212/219-1355.*