

The New Museum

OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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NEW MUSEUM SHOW OF SCULPTURAL WORKS ADDRESSES THE BODY'S FRAGILITY AND MORTALITY

Works by New York based artist Oliver Herring will be on view from January 15 through April 11, 1993 at The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York. For his first major museum exhibition, the artist knits, weaves, and intertwines transparent tape to create fragile sculptural objects. Presented as an installation in the Museum's WorkSpace gallery, Herring's art takes the form of various garments -- a coat, sweater, and a pair of trousers -- calling attention to how delicate and vulnerable the human body is both physically and emotionally.

Along with raising questions about traditional gendered models of art-making, Herring's creative process undermines assumptions about male sexuality and masculinity. The articles of clothing are ambiguous in gender, further rendering sexuality as an individual experience. Herring's work offers a composed and heartfelt exploration into issues of sexuality that might otherwise be addressed with anxiety, tension, and confrontation.

The installation, organized by Assistant Curator Alice Yang, is part of an on-going project by Herring, entitled A Flower for Ethyl Eichelberger, named for a performance artist whose cross-gender roles addressed a variety of issues concerning sexuality and gender, and who took his own life two years ago while sick with AIDS. In the context of the AIDS pandemic, Herring's work recalls the AIDS quilt. Like the quilt, which has grown too large to exhibit in its entirety and has subsequently been traveling around the country in smaller fractions, Herring intends his project to continue and to be presented in different configurations and groupings.

As Herring has written, "The form and placement of my recent work is specifically directed to evoke a sense of loss. Empty clothes represent the absence of body and their arrangement on beds of knitted transparent tape reinforces the absence with a sense of fragility and mortality."

The On View Program is funded, in part, by the Jerome Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Prince and Houston 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.