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WORKS BY JANA STERBAK ON VIEW AT THE NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Works by Jana Sterbak, an exhibition of three pieces by the Canadian artist, will be presented at The New Museum of Contemporary Art from February 16 through April 8, 1990. The exhibition will be on view in the galleries and in The Window on Broadway.

The work of Jana Sterbak has consistently referred to the body, exploring it as commodity or as an agent of vanity, but also as an object burdened by its own mortality. The intensity of the work--a dress made of raw flesh, a red-hot metal wire gown, for example--speaks directly to the viewer's most basic sensibilities, evoking emotions such as fear, pain, and desire.

The exhibition includes Remote Control I, 1989; Seduction Couch (1987); and Generic Man (1989). Remote Control I, 1989 is a large, motorized crinoline of aluminum strips that the wearer or the viewer can operate by a remote control device. The work suspends the wearer several inches above the floor, rendering her helpless to the whims of the operator. The piece will be performed with a live model on the opening night of the exhibition. It will also be activated each day the Museum is open from 1:00 to 1:30 PM.

Seduction Couch is a large chaise longue made of perforated steel. A Van Der Graaf electric generator is placed next to the couch, emitting electrostatic charges. Blue sparks jump from the crackling generator to the couch, which, when touched, gives a small electric shock. The work is dramatically lit from the sides to cast a large and imposing shadow on the facing wall.

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Generic Man will be installed in The Window on Broadway and will consist of two large-scale mirror images of the back of a man's head and neck. Any identifying features are absent, and a bar-code--much like those used to mark supermarket items--appears on the nape of his neck suggesting his transformation to a mere commodity. Generic Man has also been exhibited as an outdoor billboard.

Works by Jan Sterbak has been undertaken with the assistance of the Government of Canada, the Ministere des Affaires Culturelles du Quebec, and the Jermome Foundation. Additional support has been provided by the Ydessa Hendeles Art Foundation.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Prince and Houston Streets in Soho. Its hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, noon to 6 PM; Friday and Saturday, noon to 8 PM; Monday and Tuesday, closed. Admission is by suggested contribution: \$3.50 nonmembers; \$2.50 artists/students/seniors; members and children under 12, free. Recorded information on exhibitions and programs is available by calling 212/219-1355.