

The New Museum

OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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READING BECOMES A LOST ART IN THE NEW MUSEUM'S *THE SPATIAL DRIVE*

The Spatial Drive's thematic shift from visual preoccupation to experiential discovery is reinforced in the Security and Admissions Project, an educational program with Kimball Augustus, Bessie Bowens, Judith Daniel, Dirk Glasgow, Adam Glickman, Shelley Goldberg, Elon Joseph, Tadeo Ortiz, Laurie Parsons, Nondas Sable, Jonathon Schnapp, L. Daniel Vincent, and Alphonse Whitsett. Beginning on September 27, 1992 through January 3, 1993 during regular Museum hours, this program identifies direct communication between visitors and staff as a valuable core element of artwork presentation.

Instead of finding the usual printed materials and wall and label texts, visitors can expect to discuss factual and purposeful information, as well as multiple points of view about the exhibition with participating Museum staff.

Culminating a year's collaboration with artist Laurie Parsons, staff members have begun to meet regularly with The Spatial Drive's artists, exhibition Curator Laura Trippi and Curator of Education Susan Cahan. They are learning about their works and the exhibition's intentions and themes through studio visits, discussions and tape viewings.

Invited to design the exhibition's educational frame, Laurie Parsons proposed this on-site program in response to Security Guard Kimball Augustus inspired interactions with visitors during the Museum's 1991 Benefit Auction Preview. Augustus, a Museum guard since The New Museum's founding in 1977, does not personify the silent or invisible "protector of art" that seems to haunt many museums. He maintains that this project helps formalize what he's been doing informally for years: guiding visitors through discussion to experience art differently and advising patience with works that require more than a quick glance.

"The guards are the ones who have an energized, on-going relationship with the art works. They grow on us six hours a day, five days a week," stresses Augustus.

A joint effort of the Education and Curatorial departments, the Security and Admissions Project encourages visitors to offer their own insights and ask questions about The Spatial Drive exhibition, hopefully in long dialogues with participating staff members.

The New Museum will host a Free Evening for Museum Security Guards open to all museum guards throughout New York on Friday, October 2, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM:

Funding for The Spatial Drive is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

The New Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 583 Broadway between Houston and Prince Streets in Soho. Hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday, Noon to 6:00 PM; Friday and 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.