

Eight
Urban
Painters

CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS
OF THE EAST VILLAGE

JULY 9 - SEPTEMBER 27, 1986

THE FINE ARTS CENTER ART GALLERY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK

INTRODUCTION

As real estate prices in SoHo have continued to soar, New York's East Village — from Houston Street to 14th Street and from Second Avenue to the East River — has emerged as the home, workplace, and marketplace of hundreds of aspiring young artists who have begun to make their voices heard over the past several years. That some of the galleries lining the crowded streets of the East Village are less than elegant in appearance is a reflection not only of the tough urban sensibilities of the artists whose works are displayed therein but of the low-rent origins of the Manhattan neighborhood itself.

Despite the many generalities that have been written about the blossoming East Village scene in recent years, it would be wrong to assume that the various artists who live and work in the neighborhood comprise a single "school" of artistic expression. As any survey of these various artists and their works should make abundantly clear, the artists of the East Village are a highly diverse group of individuals with very distinct ideas who work in a wide range of artistic modes and styles. To lump these artists together as spokespersons for any single artistic vision is to ignore that which is most special and unique about each artist's work.

The delicately luminescent, Kandinsky-like abstractions of *Futura 2000*, for example, are clearly of a very different character from the idealized pastoral imaginings of Cheryl Laemmle, whose distinctly modern works nevertheless seem to evoke the spirit of 19th century American landscape painting. Similarly, the sumptuously kitsch-framed romantic paintings of Rhonda Zwillinger bespeak an artistic vision quite unlike that of Peter Drake, whose work so effectively conjures up the paranoia of contemporary urban existence. The hard-edged images of David Wojnarowicz convey political statements that are as far removed from the seemingly serene world of Martin Wong's building facades as Kevin Larmee's impressionistic subway scenes are from the expressionistic, bright-colored paintings of Layman Foster. All are expressions of the urban reality as perceived by the artists of the East Village, but how that reality is filtered through each artist's unique sensibilities makes for a fascinating diversity of artistic statements.

Eight Urban Painters features some of the very best of the many artists now working in the East Village. Some of these artists have already exhibited around the world and received widespread recognition; others are just beginning to be recognized as important figures in the East Village art scene. We are privileged to have the opportunity to present this exhibition of their works to the Stony Brook community.

EIGHT URBAN PAINTERS:

**PETER DRAKE
LAYMAN FOSTER
FUTURA 2000
CHERYL LAEMMLE
KEVIN LARMEE
DAVID WOJNAROWICZ
MARTIN WONG
RHONDA ZWILLINGER**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to the eight artists and to the collectors and galleries who have generously agreed to participate in this exhibition. In particular, I want to thank Jonas and Pamela Aarons; Martin Hason, Allyson Marks, and Bruce Polin, Avenue B Gallery; Elaine Turner Cooper; Harriet and Lester Lipton; Gracie Mansion, Sur Rodney, and Eva Lundsager, Gracie Mansion Gallery; A.G. Rosen; Barry Blinderman and Karen Brown, Semaphore Gallery; Annie Herron, Semaphore East Gallery; and Deborah Sharpe and Katherine Chapin, Sharpe Gallery.

Thanks are also due to all those involved with the organization and installation of the exhibition. I especially want to thank Linda Wien, Assistant Curator, and Stephen Larese, Department of Art Specialist and member of the Gallery's Exhibitions Committee. Thanks are also extended to Janet Kulesh, Art Consultant, for her support and encouragement. Special thanks are also due to members of the Fine Arts Center staff: Mark Ferguson, Michael Giangrasso, Arja Hihnala, David Luljak, and George Olson, Art Gallery Assistants; Gary Floyd, Technical Director, and Jay Strevey, Assistant Technical Director, for exhibition lighting; and Mary Balduf, Art Gallery Secretary.

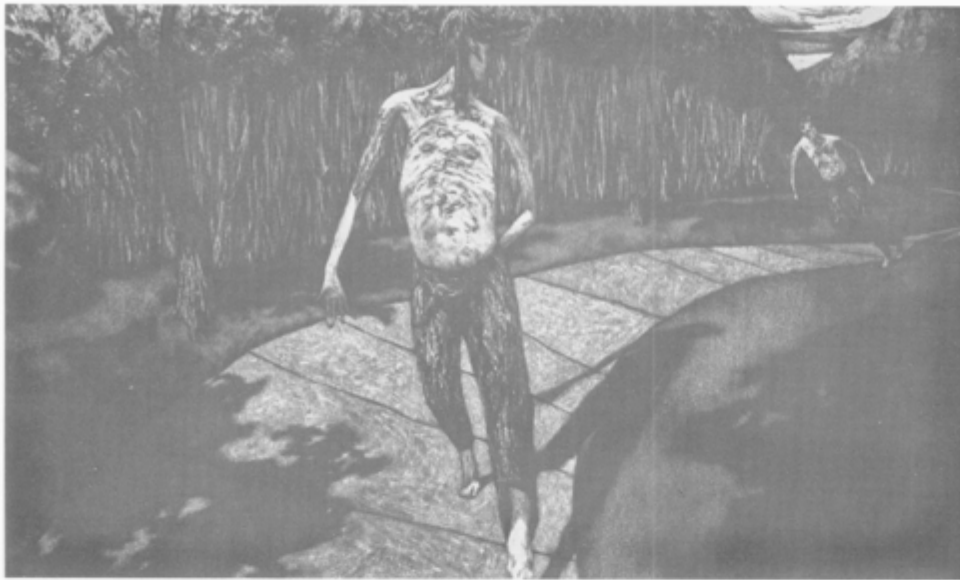
Rhonda Cooper
Director

Photo credits: ©1986 James Dee (Kevin Larmee)
©1986 David Lubarsky (Peter Drake)
©1986 Adam Reich (*Futura 2000*, Martin Wong)

Cover design: Stephen Larese

©1986, Fine Arts Center Art Gallery, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Peter Drake



Sticks, 1985
Ink on paper, sanded, 60 x 96"
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

Born 1957, Long Island, New York
Education: Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY (B.F.A., 1979)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1986 Michael Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
1985 Sharpe Gallery, NYC
1984 Limbo Lounge, NYC
Sharpe Gallery, NYC
1983 Josef Gallery, NYC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1986 *A Brave New World - A New Generation - 40 New York Artists*, Charlottenburg Exhibition Hall, Copenhagen, Denmark and Lunds Konsthall, Lund, Sweden
1985 *57th Between A & D*, Holly Solomon Gallery, NYC
El Arte Narrativo, P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY (traveled from Tamayo Museum, Mexico City, Mexico)
Summer Pleasures, Nancy Hoffman Gallery, NYC

Layman Foster



Cafe Society, 1986
Oil on canvas, 52 x 68"
Lent by the artist

Born 1952, Speedway, Indiana
Education: Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (B.F.A., 1978)
John Herron School of Art, Indianapolis, IN (1974)

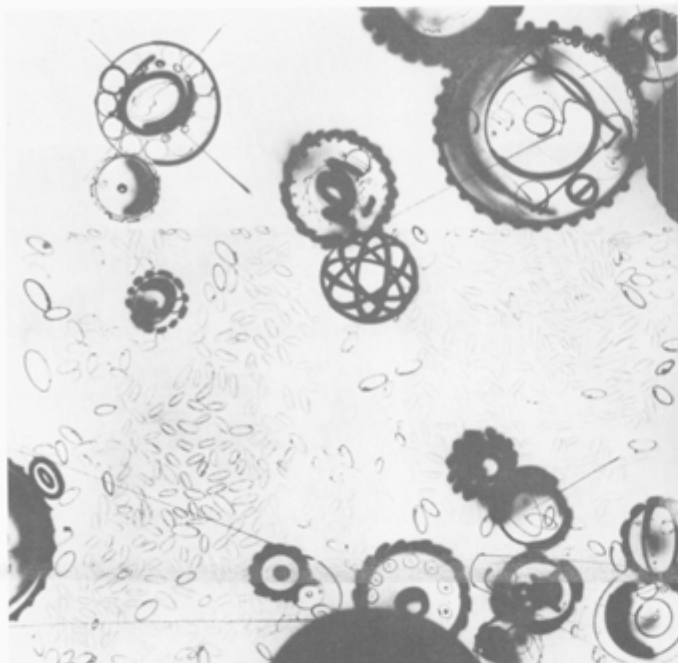
SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1985 *Figurative Abstract Painting*, Jamie Szoke Gallery, NYC
1984 *Ida Busy Resting*, Greathouse Gallery, NYC
East Village Show, P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY
1983 *Army Terminal Show*, Brooklyn, NY

THEATRE PROJECTS

1985 *Gilly Rose*, Ensemble Studio Theater, NYC
1984-85 *Gertrude Stein's Ida*, New York University Theater on the Park, NYC
1984 *Rap Snap*, Children's Dance Theatre, NYC

Futura 2000



Untitled, 1986
Spray enamel and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 72"
Courtesy Semaphore Gallery

Born 1955, New York New York
Education: City College of New York, NYC (1973)
New York Community College, NYC (1972)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1986 Semaphore Gallery, NYC
1985 Michael Kohn, Los Angeles, CA
1984 Fun Gallery, NYC
Yaki Kornblit, Amsterdam
Tony Shafrazi Gallery, NYC
1983 Fun Gallery, NYC
Four Blue Squares, San Francisco, CA
Yvon Lambert, Paris, France
Yaki Kornblit, Amsterdam
Baronian/Lambert, Ghent, Belgium
51X Gallery, NYC
1982 Fun Gallery, NYC
FNAC, Strasbourg, France

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1986 Semaphore East, NYC
1985 Flow Ace Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Missing Children Show, The Kentucky
Lithograph Building, Louisville, KY
Fun Gallery West, San Francisco, CA
Frank Bernavucci, NYC

Cheryl Laemmle



Zuni & Me, 1984
Oil on canvas with wooden fence, 84 x 72"
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

Born 1947, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Education: Washington State University, Pullman,
WA (M.F.A., 1978)
Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA
(B.A., 1974)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1986 Sharpe Gallery, NYC
1984 Sharpe Gallery, NYC
1983 Barbara Toll Fine Arts, NYC
1982 Texas Gallery, Houston, TX
1980 P.S. 1, Special Projects Room,
Long Island City, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1986 *The Best and the Brightest from the East
Village and Soho*, Moosart Gallery,
Miami, FL
Landscape, Seascape, Cityscape, New
Orleans Center for Contemporary Art,
New Orleans, LA
Natural Settings, Corcoran Gallery of Art,
Washington, DC
Artificial Paradise, Asher/Faure Gallery,
Los Angeles, CA
57th Between A&D, Holly Solomon Gallery,
NYC

Kevin Larmee



The Clock (4:15), 1983
Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 96"
Courtesy Avenue B Gallery

Born 1946, Ridgefield, New Jersey

Education: Columbia College, Chicago, IL (1974)
San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA
(1967-68)
Shimer College, Mt. Carroll, IL (1965-67, 69-70)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1985 LARMEE-Paintings, Avenue B Gallery, NYC
1984 Off the Wall, Avenue B Gallery, NYC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1986 *Public and Private: American Prints Today*,
The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY
The East Village, Fashion Institute of
Technology, NYC
East Village '86: The Best of The East Village,
Avenue B Gallery, NYC
1985 *Forshpeiz*, Avenue B Gallery, NYC
Contemporary Visions 1985, Zolla/Leiberman
Gallery, Chicago, IL
Micro Wave, NOW Gallery, NYC

David Wojnarowicz



Space Totem, 1983
Acrylic on found wood, 79" long
Lent by Elaine Terner Cooper
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

Born 1954, Redbank, New Jersey

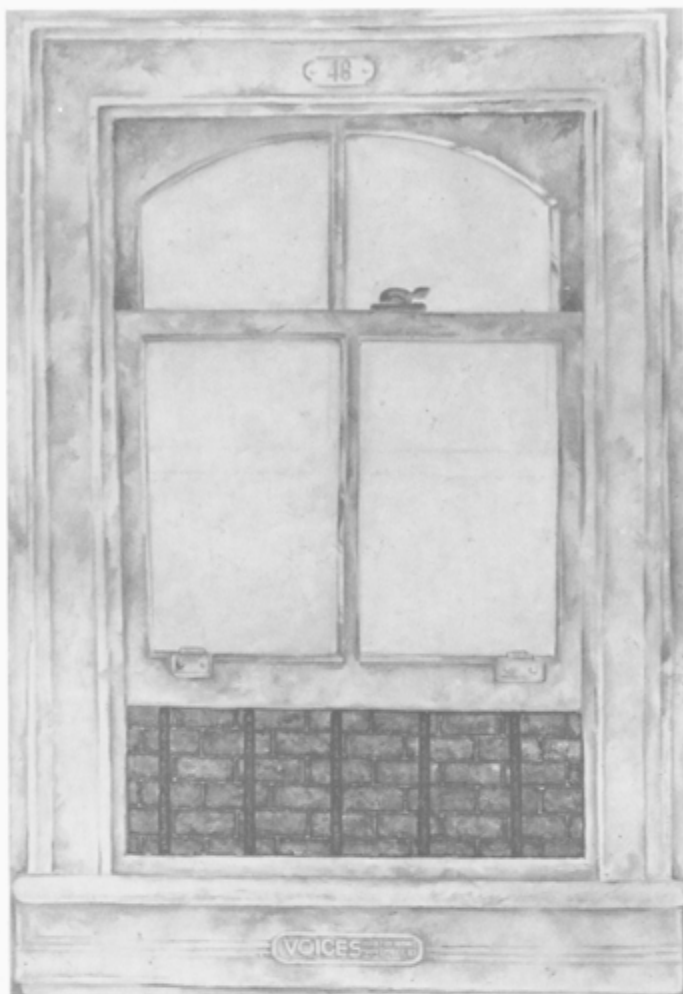
SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1986 Gracie Mansion Gallery, NYC
Messages to the Public, Times Square
Spectacolor Board, NYC
1984 C.A.Y.C., Buenos Aires, Argentina
Civilian Warfare, NYC
Anna Friebe Galerie, Cologne, West Germany
Gracie Mansion Gallery, NYC
1983 Hal Bromm Gallery, NYC
Civilian Warfare, NYC
1982 Milliken Gallery, NYC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1986 *The All Natural Disaster Show*, The Bronx
Council on the Arts, Bronx, NY
A Survey of Recent Trends in East Village Art,
Mori Gallery, Sydney, Australia (traveling to
University of Melbourne)
The East Village, Fashion Institute of
Technology, NYC
1985 *Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of
American Art, NYC
A Brave New World - A New Generation -
40 New York Artists, Copenhagen,
Denmark and Lund, Sweden

Martin Wong



Voices, 1981
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 48"
Collection of the artist
Courtesy Semaphore Gallery

Born 1946, Portland, Oregon
Education: Self-taught

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1986 Semaphore East Gallery, NYC
- 1985 Semaphore East Gallery, NYC
- 1984 Semaphore Gallery, NYC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1985 *Photosynthesis*, One Penn Plaza, NYC
Works on Paper, Semaphore East Gallery, NYC
Precious, Grey Art Gallery and Study Center, New York University, NYC and Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA
Ten Chinatown, Asian Arts Institute, NYC
East Village at Centre, Centre Saidye Bronfman, Montreal, Quebec
Urban Landscapes, Semaphore East Gallery, NYC
Bacchanalia, New York Public Library, Tomkins Square Branch, NYC

Rhonda Zwilling



Harriet and Lester, 1985
Oil on wood with mixed media frame, 19" diameter
Lent by Harriet and Lester Lipton
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

Born 1949, Brooklyn, New York
Education: Cape School of Painting, Provincetown, MA (1979-80)
Parson's School of Design, NYC (1978)
Art Student's League, NYC (1973, 1978)
Brooklyn College, CUNY, Brooklyn, NY (B.A., 1971)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1985 Gracie Mansion Gallery, NYC
Carpenter Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
P.S. 1, Long Island City, NY
Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE
- 1983 Civilian Warfare, NYC
Gracie Mansion Gallery, NYC
Windows on White, NYC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1986 *A Brave New World - A New Generation - 40 New York Artists*, Copenhagen, Denmark and Lund, Sweden
Installation, Cartier Foundation, Paris, France
The East Village, Fashion Institute of Technology, NYC
New York-New Work, Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, DE
Precious, Grey Art Gallery and Study Center, New York University, NYC and Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, VA

EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

Artists are listed in alphabetical order. All dimensions are given in inches, height preceding width preceding depth. Works marked with an asterisk are illustrated in this catalogue.

PETER DRAKE

**Sticks*, 1985
Ink on paper, sanded, 60 x 96 inches
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

LAYMAN FOSTER

**Cafe Society*, 1986
Oil on canvas, 52 x 68 inches
Lent by the artist

LAYMAN FOSTER

Play the Game, 1985
Oil on canvas, 48 x 60 inches
Lent by the artist

LAYMAN FOSTER

Self Portrait, 1985
Oil on panel, 39 x 48 inches
Lent by the artist

FUTURA 2000

Untitled, 1985
Spray enamel and acrylic on canvas, 60 x 48 inches
Courtesy Semaphore Gallery

FUTURA 2000

Untitled, 1986
Spray enamel and acrylic on canvas, 50 x 60 inches
Courtesy Semaphore Gallery

FUTURA 2000

**Untitled*, 1985
Spray enamel and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 72 inches
Courtesy Semaphore Gallery

CHERYL LAEMMLE

Two Sisters, 1984
Oil on canvas with wooden fence, 56 x 84 inches
Lent by A.G. Rosen
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

CHERYL LAEMMLE

Wisteria Mo, 1983
Oil on canvas with wooden fence, 56 x 84 inches
Private Collection
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

CHERYL LAEMMLE

**Zuni and Me*, 1984
Oil on canvas with wooden fence, 84 x 72 inches
Courtesy Sharpe Gallery

KEVIN LARMEE

**The Clock (4:15)*, 1983
Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 96 inches
Courtesy Avenue B Gallery

KEVIN LARMEE

The Clock (5:05), 1984
Acrylic on canvas, 48 x 96 inches
Courtesy Avenue B Gallery

DAVID WOJNAROWICZ

Jean Genet Masturbating in Metteray Prison, 1983
Silkscreen, 34 x 25 inches
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

DAVID WOJNAROWICZ

**Space Totem*, 1983
Acrylic on found wood, 79 inches long
Lent by Elaine Turner Cooper
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

DAVID WOJNAROWICZ

True Myth, 1983
Silkscreen, 34 x 25 inches
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

MARTIN WONG

Los Sonambulos, 1984-85
Acrylic on canvas, 55 x 31 inches
Courtesy Semaphore East Gallery

MARTIN WONG

Voices, 1981
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 36 x 36 inches
Collection of the artist
Courtesy Semaphore East Gallery

MARTIN WONG

**Voices*, 1981
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 72 x 48 inches
Collection of the artist
Courtesy Semaphore East Gallery

RHONDA ZWILLINGER

**Harriet and Lester*, 1985
Oil on wood with mixed media frame, 19 inches diameter
Lent by Harriet and Lester Lipton
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

RHONDA ZWILLINGER

Valor, 1985
Oil on wood with mixed media frame, 19 inches diameter
Lent by Jonas and Pamela Aarons
Courtesy Gracie Mansion Gallery

PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS AT THE ART GALLERY

- 1975** FACULTY EXHIBITION
- 1976** MICHELLE STUART
RECENT DRAWINGS (AN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS EXHIBITION)
SALVATORE ROMANO
- 1977** MEL PEKARSKY
JUDITH BERNSTEIN
HERBERT BAYER (AN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS EXHIBITION)
- 1978** LEON GOLUB
WOMEN ARTISTS FROM NEW YORK
JANET FISH
ROSEMARY MAYER
THE SISTER CHAPEL
- 1979** SHIRLEY GORELICK
ALAN SONFIST
HOWARDENA PINDELL
ROY LICHTENSTEIN
- 1980** BENNY ANDREWS
ALEX KATZ
EIGHT FROM NEW YORK
ARTISTS FROM QUEENS
OTTO PIENE
STONY BROOK 11, THE STUDIO FACULTY
- 1981** ALICE NEEL
55 MERCER, 10 SCULPTORS
JOHN LITTLE
IRA JOEL HABER
LEON POLK SMITH
- 1982** FOUR SCULPTORS
CECILE ABISH
JACK YOUNGERMAN
ALAN SHIELDS
THE STONY BROOK ALUMNI INVITATIONAL
ANN MCCOY
- 1983** THE WAR SHOW
CERAMIC DIRECTIONS: A CONTEMPORARY OVERVIEW
CINDY SHERMAN
THE FACULTY SHOW
- 1984** BERNARD APTEKAR: ART AND POLITICS
ERIC STALLER: LIGHT YEARS
NORMAN BLUHM: SEVEN FROM THE SEVENTIES
EDWARD COUNTEY 1921-1984
CARL ANDRE: SCULPTURE
- 1985** LEWIS HINE IN EUROPE: 1918-1919
FRANCESC TORRES: PATHS OF GLORY
HOMAGE TO BOLOTOWSKY: 1935-1981
FREEDOM WITHIN: PAINTINGS BY JUAN SANCHEZ/INSTALLATION BY ALFREDO JAAR
ABSTRACT PAINTING REDEFINED
- 1986** KLEEGER: METAL SCULPTURE
TOBY BUONAGURIO: SELECTED WORKS
YANG YEN-PING AND ZENG SHAN-QING

Director RHONDA COOPEI