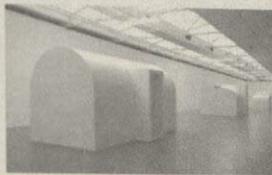


PARIS

Young French Talent at Musée d'Art Moderne

Absalon, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Jean-Jacques Rullier, and Xavier Veilhan were recently on view in four one-person shows running concurrently at the Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris. Absalon presented a series of six man-size "cells," which according to curator Béatrice Parent, speak immediately of his larger design: "to create spaces of solitude and concentration, of self-invigoration, providing shelter from the parasitic world outside." Veilhan presented twelve policeman models (slightly smaller than life-size) so confronting a series of classic questions regarding sculpture but bombarded with information relevant to everyday life. On the work of Jean-Jacques Rullier, the artist states: "I think that my work may spring from the very strong feeling I had at a certain time of not knowing anything, of having lost my references, and needing to learn everything anew, to literally start from zero." Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster's changed the color of her room, this time: blue. As Olivier Zahm commented: "The narrative of the life of Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster intersects that of her art: a work of interpretation and adaptation, exploring the essence of biography from the triple basis of the encounter, the story of the self, and narrativity." The exhibitions were on show from January 28 through March 14.



ABSALON, CELLS, 1992.

USA / RUSSIA

Peter Fend: Strictly Business

A news item in *Flash Art* (November / December '92) suggests, in the title, that Peter Fend, this writer, is engaged in more "political entanglements."

The news item is more or less true. The title is not.

It seems that people take a delight in saying that someone in the art world, preferably an artist, has entered the arena of politics. Or at least it seems that people in the art world are itching for some excitement and think that if somebody is having a quarrel with a certain government then that must be a political event.

No. The quarrel of Mr. Fend with the governments in this case, both France and Germany, is strictly one of business and property. There are no questions, for example, of with whom or for what one might be politically associated. There are no questions about political beliefs, unless one regards adherence to the published law to reflect a political belief.

All we did to be "political" was to honor the written terms of television and print press contracts for a reliable and truthful report based on satellite data, accompanied by reliable satellite imagery, of the Chernobyl event. Later, when the data was being misused or misrepresented by third parties, without permission, all we did to be "political" was to honor the written terms of our confidentiality and non-third-party use agreement with the producer of the satellite data, the Earth Observation Satellite Corporation. Later still, when abuses appeared, all we did to be "political" was to advise under the contract with EOSAT, that right was upheld — not for political or civil-rights reasons — but for business reasons.

Our conduct throughout has been that of a reliable and contract-honoring business. Our conduct throughout has been of a firm acting according to the business rules, in pursuit of what must be regarded as strictly business.

Peter Fend
Ocean Earth Construction and Development Corporation.

NEW YORK

Latin American Art at the MoMA

"Latin American Artists of the Twentieth Century" runs from June 6 through September 7 at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York. The exhibition spans the years 1914 up until the present. The focus of many previous European or North American museum surveys of Latin American art has been regional or with an eye toward Latin American identity, stressing the exotic or folklore aspects. The show at the MoMA focuses upon individual artists, one third of whom are contemporary, including several installation works. The artists participating are: Fernando Botero, Pedro Figari, Frida Kahlo, Guillermo Kuitca, Wifredo Lam, Matta, Ana Mendieta, Juan Sanchez, Jesus Rafael Soto, and Tunga. The exhibition is accompanied by a 416-page color catalogue edited by Waldo Rasmussen, with fourteen essays by scholars and critics... Also at the MoMA: continuing the series of exhibitions "Projects," "Readymade Identities" is on show through May 18. The artists (John Armleder, Sonia Balassanian, Suzan Etkin, Ann Hamilton, Maurizio Pellegrin, and Fred Wilson) use clothes as a medium to explore the theme of identity, in all its layers and guises.

NEW YORK

Art Auction for New Museum's Anniversary

The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, celebrated its sixteenth year of exhibitions with the 1993 Gala and Art Auction on April 25 at the Rockefeller Center. The auction offered collectors a chance to bid on works of both well-known and emerging artists, including an autobiographical triptych photograph by Carrie Mae Weems, a painting by Leon Golub, a watercolor by Louise Bourgeois, and drawings by Joseph Beuys, Richard Long, Mark Tansey, and Janine Antoni. The auction was conducted by Christopher Burge, President of Christie's, New York. The festivities began with the pre-view exhibition at the New Museum on April 21, as well as a silent auction to which over 120 artists had donated works. (Artists included Nicholas Africano, John Coplans, Nancy Dwyer, Alfredo Jaar, Mary Kelly, Karen Kilimnik, Sean Landers, Paul McCarthy, Kiki Smith, and Richard Tuttle.)

QUEENSLAND (AUSTRALIA)

Asia-Pacific Triennial of Art

The Queensland Art Gallery Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art is scheduled for September 18 to run through December 5. The participating artists are from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The exhibition will include almost 200 works in all media — painting, sculpture, print-making, photography, performance, and installation art, and will be complimented by an international conference, forums, and publications. The Australian artists selected so far are: Jon Cattapan, Marian Drew, Bronwyn Oliver, Gloria, Ada and Kathleen Petyarre, Guiseppa Romeo, Gareth Sansom, and Judy Watson.

SAN FRANCISCO

Clyfford Still Show

The first major touring exhibition since 1979 of the work of American artist Clyfford Still, is on view at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) through June 13. The show is co-organized by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, the SFMOMA, and the Kunsthalle in Basel, Switzerland. A 175-page catalogue featuring essays by Thomas Kellein, Michael Auping, and Susan Landauer, and a biography compiled by the artist's widow, Patricia Still, accompanies the show.