

EXHIBIT:

For some artists it's clear—if a message needs to be “spelled out” in their artwork, that's what they do.

This exhibit is about explicit, recognizable content and issues in contemporary art and what it takes to make a point. The show spotlights Robert Arneson's *A Nuclear War Head*, Juana Alicia's drawing of a poem by Alice Walker, Garry Trudeau's *Doonesbury*, and artwork by over fifty other, predominantly Bay Area, artists.

Jan Rindfleisch, Director of the Euphrat Gallery and exhibit curator, examined contemporary issues from racism to violence, sexism to urban sprawl. This show, an evolution of the exhibit (October, November 1985) Rindfleisch guest-curated for Southern Exposure Gallery in San Francisco, offers a selection of paintings, sculpture, cartoons, illustrations, mural studies, ceramics, bronze, fiber art and photography.

Irving Norman's ten-foot-tall masterpiece *Crossroads* shouts people, cars, highrises and traffic. Harriete Estel Berman creates satirical *KitchInArt* food blenders in different art styles to match one's art decor: Classically Greek, Baroque Rococo, Cubist Futurism or Social Realism (a few drops of blood on the side where the too-large blade cut through the food container). Shocking or comical, the exhibit brings alive the issues of the day and electrifies the viewer. It's a one-of-a-kind group show that makes a point.

ARTISTS include:

Gloria Alford, Juana Alicia, Robert Arneson, Lenda Anders Barth, Harriete Estel Berman, Betty Bishop, Earl Black, Sharon Boysel, Frances Butler, Guy Colwell, Nikki Craft, Eleanor Dickinson, Al Farrow, Helen Fleming, Florence Goguely, Dennis Heekin, Douglas Holmes, Bill Iaculla, Rachel Johnson, Richard Kamler, Sherry Kwint, Roberta Loach, Yolanda Lopez, Malequias Montoya, Joyce McEwen, Jack Matsuoka, Scott Miller, Doug Minkler, Terry Minkler, Janet Molotky, Irving Norman, Cheryl Nuss, Ruth Okimoto, Dennis Peak, Eleanor Prager, Paul Pratchenko, Lisa Reinertson, Joe Sam., Ann Simonton, Keith Sklar, Alonso Smith, Steve Snyder, Barron Storey, Garry Trudeau, Marie Thibeault, Signe Wilkinson

BOOK:

The book *Content, Contemporary Issues...* includes issue-oriented art and writings by artists, commentaries by people with strong points of view, criticism, information and questions, and the story of a project which included two exhibits as well as this book.

Articles in this book relate individual experiences starting with artist intention and proceeding through the maze of creativity and perception to the viewers' response.

COMMENTARIES include:

Lenda Anders Barth, Michael S. Bell, Margy Boyd,
Bill Honig, Michael Malone, Ruth Okimoto, Moira Roth

ARTICLES:

IRVING NORMAN, Michael S. Bell
THE BELFAST SERIES, Douglas Holmes
AMBUSHED BY BEAUTY, Dennis Heekin
ALTARS AND NEON, Lee Roy Champagne
THE BURDEN OF MEANING, Frances Butler
THE FAMILY OF APPLIANCES YOU CAN BELIEVE IN, Harriete Estel Berman
CARTOONISTS GARRY TRUDEAU, SIGNE WILKINSON, JACK MATSUOKA,
Sharon Wood, Gloria Rose Ott
CONFRONTATIONAL ART: MURALS, Juana Alicia, Keth Sklar, Jan Rindfleisch
CONFRONTATIONAL ART: GRAFFITI, Laurie Marks with C.E. Santiago
DOUG MINKLER, ACTIVIST ARTIST, Judy Goddess
MYTH CALIFORNIA, Sharon Wood
OLD LOVERS, Eleanor Dickinson
THE BLACK WEST SERIES, Joe Sam., Ann Einstein
ARNESON ON NUCLEAR WAR, Lenda Anders Barth
NEW YORK, ILLUSTRATION AND PERFORMANCE, Barron Storey
PAINTING AND BHOPAL, Marie Thibeault
ICARUS AND AN ARTIST'S EVOLUTION, Al Farrow
ARPILLERAS: HUMAN RIGHTS, Eve De Bona
THE RIBBON AND THE QUILT, Audrey Keller, Gen Guracar

Geared for discussion, this show and book are an excellent educational resource for all ages, elementary school and up. Curriculum materials are available.