

## SELECTED NEW YORK SEENS

1979 opened with a whoop, holler, and focus on the "New" and "Old": "New Image Painting" at the Whitney Museum centered on ten painters using isolated images in new contexts, simplifying recognizable objects placed on non-associative grounds, transforming scale and color to yield "new" meanings. Artists included **Nicholas Africano**, **Jennifer Bartlett**, **Denise Greene** (also showing drawings and paintings at Max Protetch), **Michael Hurson**, **Neil Jenney**, **Lois Lane**, **Robert Moskowitz**, **Susan Rothenberg**, **David True**, **Joe Zucker**. Other museum and gallery exhibitions of new works included two by **Robert Rauschenberg** (Sonnabend), wall works by **Rosemary Mayer** (55 Mercer), metal reliefs by **Frank Stella** (Leo Castelli), photoworks by **Al Souza** (O.K. Harris), acrylic/skrim paintings by **Chris Darton** (Mary Boone), "new Wave" collage by **Henry Benvenuti** (Monson), **Charlemagne Palestine's** "Red/Black" and **Keith Sonnier's** "Porte-Voix" installations (The Clocktower), **Marta Samson's** "Miss Behave Uncovered" moving stills (Bertha Urdang), sculpture by **Jackie Winsor** (Museum of Modern Art), new suite "Faites Memorables" by **Jean Dubuffet** (Pace Editions), and a dynamic group show of sculpture by **Gerard Hovagimyan**, **Chiara Smith** and paintings by **John Shaw**, **Harry Spitz** (75 Warren Street).

Retrospective showings included **Mark Rothko** and **Mon-drian** (Guggenheim), **Matisse** paintings and book illustrations (Museum of Modern Art), "William Carlos Williams & The American Scene" (Whitney Museum), **Barry Le Va's** "Four Consecutive Installations and Drawings" (New Museum), drawings by sculptors **Mark DiSuvero**, **Mary Miss**, **Jackie Ferrara**, **Sol LeWitt**, **Alice Aycock**, **Christo** (Touchstone), "Georgia O'Keeffe" by **Alfred Steiglitz** (Metropolitan Museum of Art), **Jack Levine** (Jewish Museum).

"The New West" series at the Kitchen Center for Video and Music presented West Coast visual artists **Chris Langdon** (films), **James Welling** (photographs/video), **Pat O'Neill** (animated film loops), **Morgan Fisher** (film-as-sculpture) and electronic music composers **David Dunn** (sonic "pictures" of performance sites), **Ron Robboy** (sound tour of San Diego), "Blue" **Gene Tyranny** (Polymoog orchestrations), **Frankie Mann** (synthesizer-minicomputer-electric bass solos). Also, a new version of composer/pianist **Ivan Tcherepnin's** *Santur Opera*, **Michael Nyman** and **Peter Greenway** in film/music intercollaboration, and vocal compositions of **Meredith Monk** were performed.

A "new" episode in **Bland Man's** life, hilarious brainchild of **Michael Smith**, premiered at Artists' Space; also, **Mel Andringa's** "Babylon/34th Street: A Lecture/Performance," drawings by **Tom Martin**, **Auste Peciura**, **Alan Saret**, **Patti Smith**, **Nancy Spero**, photographs by **Laurie Simmons**, video installation by **Peter D'Agostino**, **Pieter Holstein's** paper collage "Waterfall" and **R. M. Fisher's** "Served Up!" lighting fixture installation.

High points in P.S. 1's current exhibition program included Organization of Independent Artists' postcard size art, work of **Pal Oleszko**, drawings by **Anthony Thompson**, and "Couples" curated by **Alanna Heiss**—a look at the collaborative and independent work of 16 artists, among them **Helen and Newton Harrison**, **Klaus Rinke**, **Annette Messenger**; also music tapes by **Eberhard Blum**.

Franklin Furnace mounted exhibitions including front window by **Dan Graham**, photographs and new book works of **Barbara Krueger**, and a variable work-in-progress using

sound/slides/improvisation in "Homerunmuse" by **Carolee Schneemann**. An informal documentation slide showing of **Fandango's** history was screened, along with original broad-side issues of their earliest editions.

"New" style spectacles of "old" favorites were presented at the newly-refurbished Entermedia Theatre in the **Nova Convention**, a gathering of artists, writers, filmmakers, thinkers, and the like, dedicated to the writings and ideas of **William Burroughs**: readings and performances by **Allen Ginsberg**, **John Cage**, **Merce Cunningham**, **Anne Waldman**, **Ed Sanders**, **Tim Leary**, **Les Levine**, theatrical events with **Belgium's Le Plan K**, **Frank Zappa** reading **Burroughs**, and **Laurie Anderson** and **Julia Heyward** presenting a new audio-distortion story. A second event celebrated the New Year in a benefit for the recently burnt-out St. Marks' Church with a similar six-hour all-star cast.

**Nova Convention** film screenings presented *Cine Virus*, including **Bruce Connor's** *Devo: The Mangoloid*, **Kathy Acker's** *Blood and Guts in Highschool*, **Amos Poe's** *The End of the Film World*, **Kathy Bigelow's** *Set-Up*, **Eric Mitchell's** *Car Crash* and **Michael Oblowitz's** *Circuits of Control*.

Other film showings included four nights of new-no-now-wave films and performance (57 Club) in *Double Exposure* including new works by **Kathy Acker**, **John Aherne**, **Scott & Beth B.**, **John Lurie**, **James Naires**; films by **Joanna Kiernan** (Millennium), **Kathy Bigelow & Betty Ferguson & Manuel Delanda** (Whitney Museum), and **Anthony McCall & Andrew Tyndall's** *Argument* (Millennium) with attendant discussion of contests and entertainments (Whitney Museum's New American Filmmakers Series). **Anton Perich** created video nightmaji (Robert Friedus Gallery), and **Dieter Froese** opened in **Bill Beirne's** videotape *Streetworks* (Anthology Video).

Musical offerings ranged from **Michael Sahl & Beth Anderson's** *Cabaret of Neurosis and Nostalgia* through a new no-wave **Eno-produced** LP with **DNA**, **Contortions**, **Mars**, **Teenage Jesus & The Jerks**, "new-wave" experimental synthesizers **Suicide**, **B-52's**, **Walter Stedding**, **Model Citizens**, to a "Progressive Manifestival" presented by **Zu** including **Daavid Allen** and **Fred Frith**, and at the other end of the spectrum new music from international composers **Peter Garland**, **Michael Byron**, **Tim Souster**, **Ingram Marshall**, **John Adams**, **Paul Dresher**, and **Michael Nyman** organized under the aegis of The Reich Music Foundation, which also presented an evening with **James Tenney**, performing 8 dynamic pieces. **Phil Niblock** and **Greg Sandow** performed their compelling new works at Intermedia.

Outstanding performances by Vancouver's **Western Front Society**, droll comedy of **Robert Carroll**, incisive theatre from Britain's **Theatre of Mistakes**, a personal-perceptive trilogy of plays by **Spaulding Gray** and **Elizabeth LeCompte** titled *Three Places in Rhode Island*, and more delightful, provocative readings from the works of **Henry James Korn** and **Richard Kostelanetz** highlighted the new year's opening, heralding a concern with communication and context. Notes in the next issue will provide detailed reviews of new works on the New York Scene. Watch for news of your old favorites and new interests!

—Judith Aminoff

**Editor's Note:** Judith Aminoff is a writer, currently working as a freelance reviewer for Flash Art and various New York City publications. She is now Contributing Editor (New York) for Umbrella.