

NEWS RELEASE

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STAIB GALLERY PRESENTS "BODY & SOUL," GROUP EXHIBITION OF SEVEN ARTISTS IN VARIOUS MEDIA

New York City —

The Staib Gallery at 8 Greene Street in SoHo is pleased to announce the opening of "Body & Soul," an exhibition of seven artists in various media curated by sculptor Vered Laderman and Gallery Director René Grayre, to begin March 19 and run through April 18, 1992.

An opening reception will be held Thursday, March 19, from 6 to 8 P.M.

The artists included will be: Lesley Dill, Robert Feintuch, Marcia Grostein, Martine Kaczynski, Guillaume Paris, Gilles Touyard and Hannah Wilke.

The exhibition will present a visual dialogue between these artists whose work, with very distinctive styles and use of materials, is here concerned with the body — either its form, its politics or its absence.

Wilke's confrontational nude photographs, stripping her body of pornographic content, are contrasted with Feintuch's expressionistic paintings of ears, in effect politicizing that aperture. In contrast, Dill (whose current works involve the poems of Emily Dickenson), here presents us with sculptures that are, in effect, suits of "word armor," the concept of words and ideas as psychic and physical protection. Kaczynski's sculptures, as well as recalling the homeless, are about travel, transience and fragility, and have a peculiar relevance to Touyard's witty if pathetic, humanistic machines. Guillaume Paris' bronze and mixed-media pieces project a wry and ironic view of the world and our place in it, a counterpoint to Grostein's desiccated chairs whose tensions are created by the residual energy of the body's absence.

Curator Laderman, whose own sculpture is concerned with an ongoing exploration of her own physicality, finds herself equally intrigued by other artists' investigations: "I find a certain romanticism in all these artists, regardless of the final forms of their art, or their individual approaches. The common thread in all this work has to do with our inherent spirituality and need for each other."