

**Randolph
Street
Gallery**

TWO PROJECTS:

THE BLACK MUSEUM

by

DANNY TISDALE

and

**THE MULTICULTURAL
READING ROOM:**

**CENTER FOR RESEARCH
AND INFORMATION**

organized by

ARMANDO RASCÓN

MARCH 22 — APRIL 24, 1991

Two Projects charge the space of the gallery with installations by artists Danny Tisdale and Armando Rascón. These individuals have assumed the role of both artist and curator, as well as suggesting a larger role of ethnographer/museologist or archivist/librarian. These projects go beyond formal manipulations of neutral spaces, and address the cultural structure of institutions.

The Black Museum, by Danny Tisdale, is an installation presented as a museological display of cultural artifacts from a specific community and period of time. While the installation mimics an ethnographic display of artifacts and images, it also questions the authority of that very institution by replacing the supposedly objective and privileged role of the 'ethnographer' standing outside with one that is invested as a subject of its own inquiry. The Black Museum presents images of cultural heritage and pride together with products of exploitation and assimilation. As such, the museum/installation acknowledges its participation and that of other institutions in defining cultural relevance, while revealing the role of the curator/artist as both presenter of popular images and critic of those same constructions.

Armando Rascón's **The Multicultural Reading Room**, is a functioning information center that organizes sources and influences from a diverse group of contributors into a living library. While recognizing the institutional construction of cultural repositories, it questions the promise of 'knowledge' as a preexisting consensus. Rather than cataloging the library according to the supposed neutrality of the Dewey Decimal system, the texts are organized according to their respective contributors. This simple shift in ordering a compendium of materials not only maintains the intimacy of the selection process, but suggests a decentralized approach to cultural definitions. As an installation the Reading Room is a forum for multicultural discourse in which each set of contributed texts offers its own legacy of multiple perspectives.

Both projects question conventions of cultural institutions, not only in how they are structured but in how they transmit values. Tisdale's museum and Rascón's library ask us to suspend our expectations as viewers; we are asked to become participants. In turn, Randolph Street Gallery is itself expanded. Our sense of a contemporary gallery, and how art is seen, is opened and made fluid by the shifts suggested by The Black Museum and The Multicultural Reading Room. By learning from these projects and the questions they present, we perceive alternative models for ways cultural institutions may function.

Mary Murphy
Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle

Related Events

Lecture and Panel Discussion

The Problem of the Visual in Afro-American Culture
by Michele Wallace, with participating panelists
Ramona Austin and Salim Muwakkil
March 1, 1991, 8:00 pm

Panel Discussion

with artists Danny Tisdale and Armando Rascón
and exhibition organizers
March 22, 1991, 7:00 pm

Video Screening

Ethnic Notions and Color Adjustments
by Marlon Riggs
followed by an open discussion with the artist
March 23, 1991, 8:00 pm

Performance

So Many Dreams
written by Essex Hemphill
and performed by Larry Duckette
March 29 & 30, 1991, 8:00 pm

Video Screening

Discourse of Racism,
organized by Salim Muwakkil with Mindy Faber
followed by an open discussion with the organizers
April 5, 1991, 8:00 pm

La Palabra XIII: WARR Y MORA

poetry reading
featuring Michael Warr and Pat Mora
co-sponsored by Movimiento Artístico Chicano
April 6, 1991, 8:00 pm

THE MULTICULTURAL READING ROOM:

CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Organized by **ARMANDO RASCÓN**

with selected material presented by the following individuals:

STEVE ABBOTT • LARRY ANDREWS
KAREN ATKINSON • JULIE AULT
DAVID AVALOS • ROBERTO BEDOYA
BARBARA CARRASCO • WHITNEY CHADWICK
JOHN COPLANS • MOYO COYATZIN
DAVID DEITCHER • HARRY GAMBOA, JR.
SHIFRA GOLDMAN • FELIX GONZALEZ-TORRES
ALFREDO JAAR • LUCY LIPPARD
HUNG LIU • NATHANIEL MACKEY
AMALIA MESA-BAINS • TRINH T. MINH-HA
CELIA MUÑOZ • ANTONIO MUNTADAS
SALIM MUWAKKIL • ACHY OBEJAS
HOWARDENA PINDELL • ADRIAN PIPER
ISHMAEL REED • LUIS J. RODRIGUEZ
MOIRA ROTH • PETER SELZ
ANDRES SERRANO • MAUREEN SHERLOCK
HILDA SHUM • VICTOR ALEJANDRO SORELL
CARLOS VILLA • PETER WRIGHT

THE MULTICULTURAL READING ROOM:

CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

Since the census year (1990) we have witnessed a move on the part of certain arts organizations and institutions towards increased multicultural programming. Others have, to their credit, maintained active roles as advocates of multicultural initiatives and ideas for many years. This manifestation of outward signs appears to be an indication of increased interest, but the metadiscourse of multicultural exchange is a reality more palpable than Census Bureau statistics. The importance of exchange and distribution of multicultural source material, past and present, directly impacts the future of a coming generation within our society.

The American Heritage Dictionary first incorporated the term 'multicultural' in the 1983 Second College Edition, although it has been in use for sometime. Presently and ten years from now, the term 'multicultural' will trigger multiple responses from different audiences and constituencies, among close and between distant communities.

The variegated face and complex nature of conditions that gave rise to the term 'multicultural' has necessitated closer scrutiny. The need for a clearer definition of terms demands a forum for debate and exchange of information, an investigation into all possible sources and directions leading towards a clearer view of the histories and narratives which inform our socially complex urban centers and communities. One already senses the multiplicity of voices operating in everyday exchanges and one hears, too, questions that by their very nature define that environment.

The intention in organizing "The Multicultural Reading Room" as a compendium of existing texts and printed matter has been to move towards concrete answers to questions provoked by the multicultural initiative. The approximately 100 titles in circulation out there in the world which comprise the Reading Room were selected and contributed by 36 invited collaborators. The range and richness of our multicultural landscape is represented by selections from the personal libraries of these artists, writers, critics, cultural activists and historians. These contributors are highly regarded both as multicultural architects in their own right and practitioners in their respective fields and communities.

The present installation of The Reading Room at Randolph Street Gallery, was first housed at New Langton Arts, San Francisco, California in the fall 1990. Following this installation the entire compendium of texts will be permanently housed in the J. Paul Leonard Library at San Francisco State University.

Armando Rascón

KEY:

Suggested By

Title, Author, Publishing Company, City: Date

Steve Abbott

View Askew/Postmodern Investigation, Steve Abbott,
Androgyne Books, San Francisco: 1989

Women on Women - An Anthology of American Lesbian Short Fiction, Joan Nestle and Naomi Holoch, ed.
Penguin Books, New York: 1990

A Gift of Tongues - Contemporary American Poetry
Marie Harris and Kathleen Aguero, ed.
The University of Georgia Press, Athens and London: 1987

Larry Andrews

Invisible Man, Ralph Ellison, Vintage Books, New York: 1989

Lyric and Dramatic Poetry 1946-82, Aimé Césaire
The University Press of Virginia, Charlottesville: 1990

Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language
The World Publishing Company, Cleveland and New York: 1968

Karen Atkinson

The Graywolf Annual Five: Multi-Cultural Literacy, Rick
Simonson and Scott Walker, ed., Graywolf Press, St. Paul: 1988

Difference and Pathology - Stereotypes of Sexuality, Race, and
Madness, Sander L. Gilman
Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London: 1985

Unequal Sisters - A Multicultural Reader in Women's History
Ellen Carol DuBois & Vicki L. Ruiz, ed.
Routledge, New York and London: 1990

Julie Ault

Talking Back - thinking feminist, thinking black, Bell Hooks
South End Press, Boston: 1989

if life is a bowl of cherries what am i doing in the pits?
Erma Bombeck, McGraw Hill Book Company, San Francisco: 1971

Cinderella, Walt Disney - A Golden Book
Western Publishing Co., Inc., New York and Racine, WI: 1986

David Avalos

California Mission Daze, Deborah Small & David Avalos
(with James Luna & William E. Weeks)
Independent Publications by the Authors, San Diego: 1990

1492, Deborah Small (w/ Maggie Jaffe)
Independent Publication by the Author, San Diego: 1990

Roberto Bedoya

The Conquest of America, Tzvetan Todorov (Translated by Richard Howard), Harper & Row Publishers, San Francisco: 1984

The Labyrinth of Solitude, Octavio Paz
Grove Press, New York: 1985

Barbara Carrasco

Bosch, Text by Joseph-Emile Muller
Leon Amiel, Pub., New York: No Date.

Goya: The Origins of the Modern Temper in Art, Fred Licht
Universe Books, New York: 1979

The Fabulous Life of Diego Rivera, Bertram D. Wolfe
Stein and Day, New York: 1963

Whitney Chadwick

Women Art and Society, Whitney Chadwick,
Thames and Hudson, London: 1990

Caribbean Festival Arts, John W. Nunley and Judith Bettelheim
St. Louis Art Museum with University of Washington Press
Seattle and London: 1988

John Coplans

Andy Warhol, John Coplans (Untranslated Japanese text)
Ashahi Shibun, Pub., Bijutsu Shuppan Design Ctr., Tokyo: 1974

Moyo Coyatzin

The Tiger Rider and Other Chinese Epigrams, Translated by
C.H. Kwock, The Lipo Society of America, San Francisco: 1986

Ukelele, Stefan Baci, Cenizas, San Francisco: 1980

Cenizas 18, Geoffrey Cook, Romax, San Francisco: 1982

Poemas Sencillos del Viejo Soldado, Tristan Marof
Cenizas, San Francisco: 1980

Twelve Little Writings for Jean Paulhan, Francis Ponge
(Translated by Charle Shere), Cenizas, San Francisco: 1970

David Deitcher

Lost Illusions, Honore de Balzac, Penguin Books, New York: 1988

Discipline and Punish - The Birth of the Prison, Michel Foucault
Vintage Books, New York: 1979

Cruising the Movies: A Sexual Guide to 'Oldies' on TV
Boyd McDonald, Gay Presses of New York, New York: 1985

Harry Gamboa, Jr.

Three Plays, August Strindberg, Penguin Classics, New York: 1983

Inhibitions Symptoms and Anxiety, Sigmund Freud
WW Norton & Co., New York: 1959

The Psychology of Fear and Stress, Jeffrey Gray
McGraw Hill, New York: 1974

Shifra Goldman

Arte Chicano - A Comprehensive Annotated Bibliography of
Chicano Art, 1965-1981, Shifra Goldman & Tomas Ybarra-Frausto
Chicano Studies Library Publications Unit, Berkeley: 1985

Signs From The Heart: California Chicano Murals
Eva Sperling Cockcroft and Holly Barnet-Sanchez, ed.
Social and Public Art Resource Center, Venice: 1990

Pintura Mexicana Contemporanea en Tiempos de Cambio
Shifra M. Goldman, Editorial Domes, S.A., Mexico City: 1989

Felix Gonzalez-Torres

Cuentos Completos, Alejo Carpentier, ed.
Bruguero Libro Amigo, S.A., Barcelona: 1979

Montesquieu, Rousseau, Marx - Politics and History
Louis Althusser (Translated by Ben Brewster)
Presses Universitaires de France, Paris: 1970

Fodor's 90 Paris, Thoman Cussans, ed.
Fodor's Travel Publications, New York: 1990

Alfredo Jaar

Why This New World Map? (world map in equal area presentation -
Peters Projection) Arno Peters, United Nations Development
Programme and Friendship Press, New York: 1983
(from The New Cartography, Arno Peters, Carinthia University
Press, Klagenfurt, Austria and Friendship Press, New York: 1983)

Lucy Lippard

Reimaging America, Mark O'Brien and Craig Little, ed.
New Society, Philadelphia: 1990

Hung Liu

Chinese Painting History, Wang Bo Min, Shanghai People's Fine
Art Publishing House, Shanghai, People's Republic of China: 1982

Call To Arms, Lu Xun, Foreign Languages Press, Beijing: 1981

I Myself Am a Woman: Selected Writings by Ding Ling
Tani E. Barlow and Gary J. Bjorge, ed., Beacon Press, Boston: 1989

Nathaniel Mackey

The Arrivants, Edward Brathwaite
Oxford University Press, London: 1967

Stolen Legacy, George G. M. James
Julian Richardson Associates, San Francisco: 1954

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl - Written by Herself
Harriet A. Jacobs, Harvard University Press, Cambridge: 1987

Amalia Mesa-Bains

Four New World Yoruba and Rituals, John Mason
Yoruba Theological Archministry, Brooklyn: 1985

Black Gods - Orisa Studies in the New World, Gary Edwards and
John Mason, ed., Yoruba Theological Archministry, Brooklyn: 1985

Race, Writing and Difference, Henry Lewis Gates, Jr., ed.
University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London: 1986

Trinh T. Minh-ha

Woman Native Other, Trinh T. Minh-ha
Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis: 1989

Griever: An American Monkey King in China, Gerald Vizenor
Fiction Collective, New York and Boulder: 1987

Making Face, Making Soul - Haciendo Caras: Creative and Critical
Perspectives by Women of Color, Gloria Anzaldua, ed.
Aunt Lute Foundation Books, San Francisco: 1990

Celia Muñoz

Man and His Symbols, Carl G. Jung
Dell Publishing Co., New York: 1964

Antonio Muntadas

Brevisima Relación de la Destrucción de las Indias
Bartolomé de las Casas, Editorial Catedra, Madrid: 1987

How to Read Donald Duck, Ariel Dorfman and Armand Mattelart
(Trans. by David Kunzle), International General, New York: 1971

Salim Muwakkil

Flash of the Spirit, African and Afro-American Art and Philosophy
Robert Farris Thompson, Vintage Books, New York: 1984

Phildadelphia Fire, John Edgar Wideman
Henry Holt and Co., New York: 1990

Achy Obejas

The Lesbian Body, Monique Wittig
Beacon Press, Cambridge, MA: 1973

La Edad de Oro, José Martí
Editora Corripio, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: 1983

Howardena Pindell

Impacts of Racism on White Americans
Benjamin Bowser and Raymond Hunt, ed.
Sage Publications, Newbury Park, California: 1990

Black Robes White Justice: Why Our Legal System Doesn't Work for Blacks, Bruce Wright, A Lyle Stuart Book, New York: 1987

When and Where I Enter-The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America, Paula Giddings, Bantam Books, New York: 1984

Adrian Piper

The Critique of Pure Reason, Immanuel Kant (Translated by Norman Kemp Smith), St. Martin's Press, New York: 1958

Alice in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass, Lewis Carroll
Richard Clay, Son and Taylor, London: No Date

Ishmael Reed

Breaking Ice - Anthology of Black American Poets
Terry MacMillen, ed., Viking Penguin Books, New York: 1990

Stranger from a Different Shore - A History of Asian Americans
Ronald Takaki, Penguin Books, New York: 1989

And We Sold the Rain - Contemporary Fiction from Central America, Rosario Santos, ed.
Four Wall Eight Windows, New York: 1988

Luis J. Rodriguez

Roof Top Hyper, David Hernandez
Tia Chucha Press, Chicago: 1991

Poems Across the Pavement, Luis J. Rodriguez
Tia Chucha Press, Chicago: 1989

Life According to Motown, Patricia Smith
Tia Chucha Press, Chicago: 1991

We Are All the Black Boy, Michael Warr
Tia Chucha Press, Chicago: 1991

Moir Roth

Making Waves - An Anthology Of, By and About Asian American Women, Asian Women United of California, ed.
Beacon Press, Boston: 1989

Unequal Sisters, Carol Dubois and Vicki L. Ruiz, ed.
Routledge, New York: 1990

Making Face, Making Soul - Haciendo Caras: Creative and Critical Perspectives by Women of Color, Gloria Anzaldua, ed.
Aunt Lute Foundation Books, San Francisco: 1990

Peter Selz

Art in a Turbulent Era, Peter Selz
UMI Research Press, Ann Arbor: 1985

Rupert Garcia, Exhibition Catalog
Harcourt Gallery, San Francisco: 1985

Andres Serrano

The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald
Charles Scribner's Sons, New York: 1925

The Autobiography of Malcolm X, As told to Alex Haley
Ballantine Books, New York: 1964

Maureen Sherlock

Count Julian, Juan Goytisolo (Translated by Helen Lane)
Serpent's Tail Press, London: 1974

The Wretched of the Earth, Frantz Fanon (Translated by
Constance Farrington), Grove Weidenfeld, New York: 1968

Civil War in France: The Paris Commune, Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin
International Publishers, New York: 1940

Woman on the Edge of Time, Marge Piercy
Knopf, New York: 1976

Hilda Shum

The Forbidden Stitch, An Asian American Women's Anthology
Shirley Geok-lin Lim and Margarita Donnelly, ed.
CALYX, Corvallis, OR: 1989

Making Waves - An Anthology Of, By and About Asian American Women, Asian Women United of California, ed., Beacon Press,
Boston: 1989

Victor Alejandro Sorell

This Is Not a Pipe, Michel Foucault (Translated by James Harkness)
University of California Press, Berkeley: 1983

Images of Conscience: The Art of Bill Walker
Victor Alejandro Sorell, ed.
University Galleries - Chicago State University, Chicago: 1987

Body/Culture: Chicano Figuraton, Elizabeth Partch, ed.
University Art Gallery - Sonoma State University
Rohnert Park, CA: 1990

Carlos Villa

Mixed Blessings, Lucy Lippard, Pantheon Books, New York: 1990

Bilingual Catalogs from INTAR, Various exhibition catalogs
INTAR Gallery, New York: 1987-90

Peter Wright

Everybody's Political What's What, George Bernard Shaw
Dodd Meade & Co., New York: 1944

Book of Words, Ivor Brown, Jonathan Cape, London: 1942

Apologia Pro Vita Sua, Cardinal John Henry Newman
Longman's Green & Co., London: 1945 (first published in 1865)

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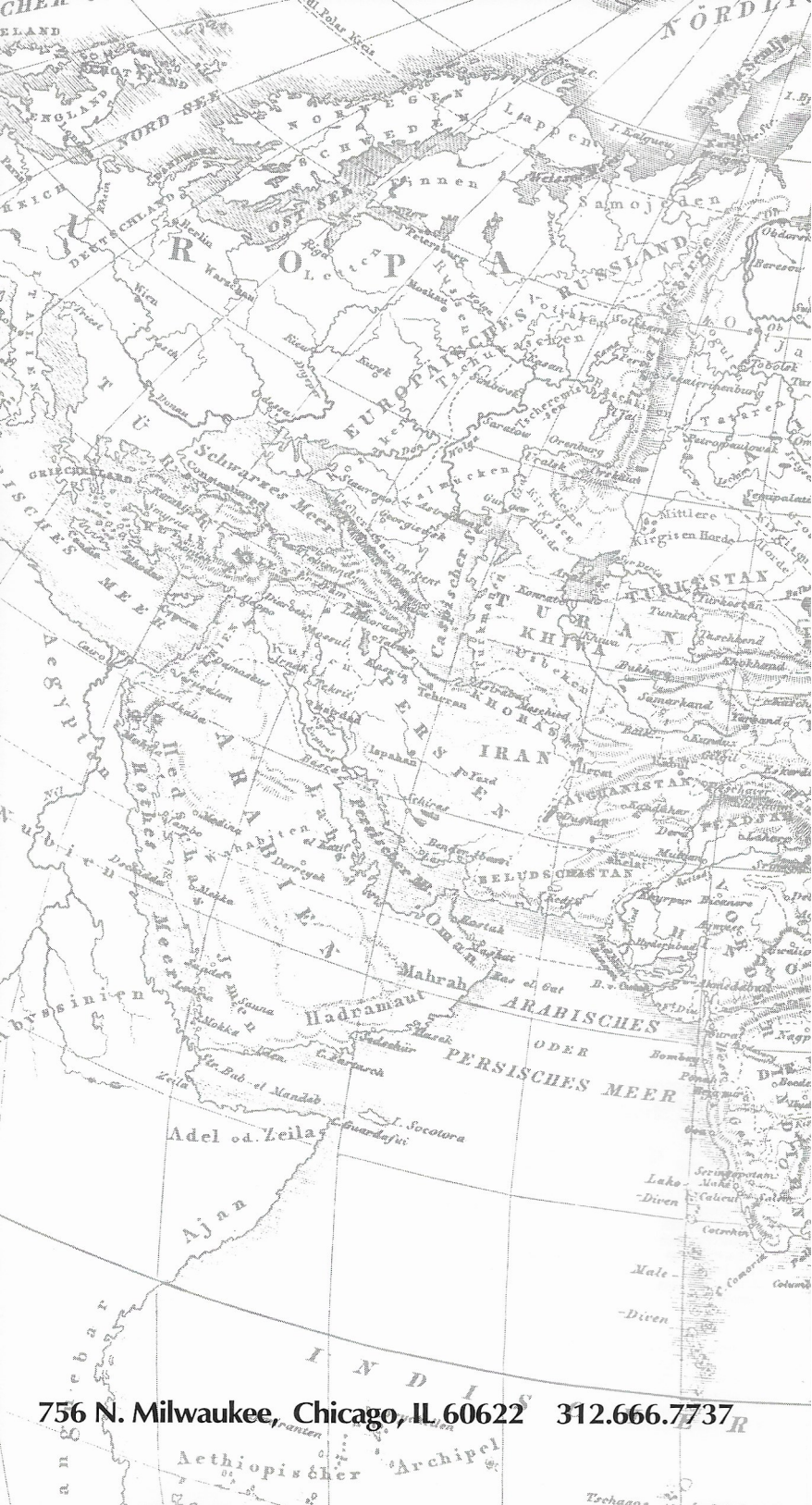
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