

Since 1973, a gallery
promoting the work
of women artists and
serving the community
through public events

SOHO20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

545 Broadway (3rd Floor)
New York, NY 10012
(212) 226-4167

EXHIBITION: **Fourth International Exhibition of
Women's Art
Curated by Leslie Jones, MOMA**

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LOCATION: **SOHO20 Gallery
545 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10012**

DATES: **August 11 - September 5, 1998**

RECEPTION: **Saturday, August 15, 1998 5 - 8PM**

GALLERY HOURS: **Tuesday - Saturday, 12 - 6 PM**

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Thomas Slaughter

In choosing artists for this exhibition, I have leaned towards women whose work might be described as serious fun - in making you laugh they also succeed in making you think. Attuned to vital issues and ideas circulating in contemporary feminist art as well as art in general, these artists deal with a broad range of issues related to the body, pop culture, and the mass media through a strategy of the less-than-serious. The chuckle or knowing grin evoked by playful portraits of a housewife (type "Betty Crocker") and starlet (type "Marilyn Monroe") by Susan Shapiro or by the not-so-chance encounter of a stiletto heel and an iron in a work by Chris Nelson, for example, attests to the laughably ridiculous limits of female stereotypes. The limits of conventional portraiture are toyed with in the deadpan portrayals by Marjorie Van Cura, and in the zany nudist antics captured on film by Amy Ockerlander. Several artists working in more abstract modes employ spheroidal forms resembling eggs in works that scramble the usual association with reproduction and the "feminine"; "eggs" appear as giant beads in and elegant strand suspended from the wall (in a work by Eleanor White) or, exuding out of the wall, like the spawn of some unspecified gallery vermin (Tatiana Murray). Working in diverse media, including painting, sculpture, photography and computer-generated imagery, the artists in this exhibition "play" with their content and medium in a way that makes the artistic experience fun, yet provocative.

Leslie Jones

For further information, please contact Tom Slaughter, gallery director, at (212) 226-4167, fax (212) 334-6124.