

ubu

YOKO ONO

DRAWINGS FROM FRANKLIN SUMMER AND (BLOOD OBJECTS FROM FAMILY ALBUM)

October 28 - December 12, 1995

Ubu Gallery is pleased to present **Yoko Ono: Drawings from *Franklin Summer* and Blood Objects from *Family Album***, which will open on October 28, 1995 and run through December 12, 1995.

On exhibition will be current drawings, which will be shown for the first time in the United States, and a group of recently executed bronzes making their New York debut. Unlike the conceptual nature of her other bronze works, the "Family Album" objects - splattered with red pigment - uniquely express Yoko Ono's metaphoric and poetic response to the terror and violence which we experience, not only on a global basis, but at a personal level.

The sense of betrayal inherent in the objects is, however, redeemed by the spontaneous pleasure and biomorphic references evident in the "Franklin Summer" drawings. Recently exhibited in Majorca, Italy and Germany, the works are an agglomeration of fine ink dots which appear to have combined in an automatic manner. Begun in the summer of 1994, this visual exploration is an ongoing process. Ono has written, "The dots accumulated into a mass, and figures emerged from them... It was very much like what one goes through in meditation..." With this group of drawings, she embraces the quiet and poetic sensibility of her earlier works.

Film-maker, musician, performer, object-maker and, foremost, conceptual artist, Yoko Ono is, above all, a poet. She emerged as an artist in the late 1950s in New York City and her presence was noted and felt in the avant-garde scene at that time. During the summer of 1961, Ono's first solo exhibition took place in New York at AG Gallery, the short-lived enterprise of George Maciunas, spiritual leader of Fluxus. It was at AG that she introduced to the public her "instruction paintings," works which consisted of instructions for creating the work and directions for viewer participation. In the fall of that year, Ono gave a concert at Carnegie Recital Hall during which she stimulated audience participation. These were the first of a series of interactive events that she performed throughout the decade. In 1971, Ono was honored with her first museum exhibition at the Everson Museum in Syracuse, New York.

In 1988, Ono wrote, "In my mind, bronze started to have a warm shimmer instead of the dead weight I had associated it with. Bronze is OK I thought..." In this same year, she was invited to participate in a birthday homage to John Cage for which she created a bronze cast of *Play It By Trust*, a variant of the all white chess set she first executed in 1966. This led her to cast several other bronzes related to earlier works, which she included in her 1989 exhibition at The Whitney Museum of American Art,

Yoko Ono: Objects, Films.

The exhibition at Ubu Gallery reflects the paradoxical aesthetic that Yoko Ono has always projected. The tensions inherent in the extremities of human emotion and natural forces -- destruction versus creation and violence versus peace, for example -- energize the creativity and stimulate the political activism of this extraordinary artist.