

ubu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Subverted Object

October 26, 1996 – January 4, 1997

The Subverted Object will open at **Ubu Gallery** on October 26th and run through January 4, 1997. Reflecting the calculated irony of Marcel Duchamp and his Dada and Surrealist colleagues, the exhibition will include works by such early 20th Century luminaries as Man Ray and Meret Oppenheim, as well as such masters of the second half of the century as Arman, Artschwager, Broodthaers, Haacke, Rebecca Horn, Dieter Rot and H.C. Westermann. Vic Muñoz, Tom Sachs and Tony Tasset are among the emerging artists whose work will also be presented in the exhibition.

The utility of any artifact presumably depends on how well it performs a specific function. Apart from its utility, it also may be emblematic of a way of life involving powerful emotional commitments. Most objects occupy what has been called a "psychological temperate zone," making few emotional demands on us. But the emotional content we associate with any object depends on more than the object alone. Hidden associations may be revealed when one object is juxtaposed with another, or otherwise taken out of its familiar context, or when just a single detail is removed or altered. If the resulting visual metaphor is sufficiently powerful, even the most ubiquitous artifact may be transformed into an object of emotional rather than practical utility.

The Dadaists and Surrealists, who recognized that the effectiveness of these transformations depended to a great extent on being able to recognize the authenticity of the original, exploited such abrupt reversals or transformations with unrelenting wit and cunning. In recent years, this recasting of the useful object has again been of compelling interest to artists, many of who have tweaked the approach by fabricating intentionally dysfunctional surrogates that parody reality. ***The Subverted Object*** presents permutations of everyday reality as 20th Century still life and conveys the disorienting spirit that colors one thread of the complicated fabric of the art of our time.

Ubu Gallery is located at 16 East 78th Street. Gallery hours are 11 am to 6 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. Press prints are available upon request.