

# ubu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DESTRUCTION/CREATION

March 4 - April 22, 2000

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Reception: Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 6:00 PM

*Marina Abramovic, Vito Acconci, William Anastasi, Arman, Richard Artschwager, Robert Beck, Dove Bradshaw, Chris Burden, John Chamberlain, Gordon Matta-Clark, Joseph Cornell, Angela de la Cruz, Gregory Green, Mike Kelly, Sol LeWitt, Roy Lichtenstein, Ana Mendieta, Yoko Ono, Raphael Montañez Ortiz, Tony Oursler, Lil Picard, Robert Rauschenberg, Man Ray, Tom Sachs, Jean Tinguely, Ben Vautier, Jacques Villeglé, Wolf Vostell, Andy Warhol, Robert Watts, H.C. Westermann and Jeffrey Wisniewski*

In a century informed by the psychoanalytic concepts of Sigmund Freud, many artists have confronted, and in Freud's terms, sublimated, such destructive impulses as sexual aggression, violation, death, decay and mutilation in the process of creation. The exhibition ***Destruction/Creation*** at **Ubu Gallery** demonstrates how certain artists, whether from discontent with society and bourgeois cultural standards or out of self-awareness, have engaged with destruction.

Early in the 20th Century, the Italian Futurists wrote their manifesto glorifying war and condemning museums. By the end of the century, many contemporary artists were performing iconoclastic gestures, producing art by destructive means or creating art from havoc. In the mid-1950s, Robert Rauschenberg, in a celebrated and radical gesture, erased a deKooning drawing and the work subsequently entered the collection of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Shortly thereafter, **Jean Tinguely** built a self-destroying mechanical sculpture that fulfilled its mission in New York in the garden of the Museum of Modern Art (a fragment of this sculpture is included in the exhibition). In Paris, **Jacques Villeglé** made art from the gouged and weathered layers of torn billboards, while **Arman** burned violins and smashed television sets. In Italy, **Lucio Fontana** sliced and pierced canvases.

During the period of widespread discord in the late 60s, artists such as **Vito Acconci** and **Chris Burden** created performances of self-mutilation. **Gordon Matta-Clark** aggressively addressed the urban landscape by cutting through and piercing existing buildings. **John Chamberlain** assembled damaged automobile body parts to build free-standing sculpture. Photographs of race riots, civil unrest, automobile disasters and electric chairs were appropriated by **Andy Warhol** to be silk-screened in rich, monochromatic colors. **Roy Lichtenstein** created a series of *Explosions*, ironic responses to the temper of the period.

*Destruction/Creation* will be supported with video documentation of performances. Additional artists to be included in the exhibition are Marina Abramovic, William Anastasi, Sol LeWitt, Ana Mendieta, Yoko Ono, Raphael Montañez Ortiz, Tom Sachs, Wolf Vostell and H.C. Westermann.