

DIALECTS represents an invitational exhibition of artists who have been asked to create special works in the book format that explore various tendencies in contemporary art. For many of the artists it has been a chance to explore the changes in artistic vocabulary as the book medium requires. What becomes interesting in this exhibition is the rethinking process involved when artists change from mediums in which they work more readily to deal with the same concepts and idea using the book. Styles varies as new ways of thinking occur . In coordinating this exhibition consideration was given first to the artist's distinctive style, concern was secondly devoted to creating a juxtaposition between stylistic concern and the interpretation of the idea of the book. The -major criteria imposed on all the artists is that the finished or work in progress had to pertain to the book in some context. This exhibition does not represent an definitive statement about minority artists or the book form for that matter but should be viewed as an experiment in the translation of process and vocabularies between mediums.

One major interest of the exhibition however is undoubtedly the range of materials both natural and man made that permeates in these works. Such handmade paper works by artists Jacqui Holmes, Reginald Walker and Sam Gilliam, have a direct relationship to the work of artists Gylbert Coker and Willie Birch in their use of found and natural materials. As the range of materials varies so do the concept of the book in structure when one considers the works of artists David Hammons and Randy Williams whose work are as much about sculpture as they are about the book form. Finally the attempt to incorporate a diverse range of sensitivities is clearly evident in the works of such artists as Wilfredo Chiseo, John Dowell, and Coreen Simpson whose work relates to other mediums of expression, such as music, outside the visual. Perhaps one of the more surprising works in the exhibition is the work of Lilliana Porter whose work is much about art and illusion as it is about the entire nature of the disembodiment of the object.

Horace Brockington

1980

DIALECTS: THE ARTISTS

BENNY ANDREWS
TONY BECHARA
CAMILLE BILLOPS
WILLIE BIRCH
FRANK BRAXTON
FRANK BOWLING
WILFREDO CHISEO (with the assistance of RAFAEL A. LEEDE AND TOMAS L. RAMIREZ)
GILBERT COKER
JOHN DOWELL
LILLIANA FORTER
ROBERT REID
JORGE RODRIGUEZ
MAYLER RYDER
COREEN SIMPSON
REGINALD WALKER
STANLEY WHITNEY
RANDY WILLIAMS
WILLIAM T. WILLIAMS
TOM FEELINGS
ANTONIO FRASCONI
SAM GILLIAM
DAVID HAMMONS
GAIL A. HANSBERG
MARVIN HARDEN
JACQUI HOLMES
CARLOS IRIZARRY
NOMI JENISON
JACOB LAWRENCE
ADAL MALDONADO
ANA MENDIETA
SANDRA PAYNE
HOWARDENA PINDELL