

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

press release

STUART SHERMAN

RETROSPECTIVE: SOLO AND GROUP SPECTACLES 1975-80

Friday, March 20 & Saturday, March 21, 1981

Program One (solo work)--8pm, Friday & Saturday

Program Two (group work)--10:30pm, Friday & Saturday

\$4.00/\$2.50 members/TDF Theater. A separate admission is asked for each program.

The Kitchen, 484 Broome Street

Reservations: 925-3615

On March 20 and 21, The Kitchen presents performance artist Stuart Sherman in a retrospective of his solo and group "Spectacles" of the past five years.

Program One (presented at 8pm on both evenings) will focus on Sherman's solo work, selecting from the first Twelve Spectacles and featuring a preview of the Thirteenth Spectacle (Time).

Program Two (presented at 10:30pm on both evenings) consists of group works. Joining Sherman will be George Ashley, John Mendelsohn, Beth Rectanus, Berenice Reynaud, and Scotty Snyder, in selections from the Second and Fourth Spectacles, plus complete presentations of "Slight", an interpretation of a play by Richard Foreman, and "3=1 (A Careful Misreading)", based on poems by Stefan Brecht, Edwin Denby, and Peter Frank.

A Stuart Sherman "Spectacle", by his definition, "Consists of many brief manipulations, each demonstrating a complex idea through a precise sequence of simple actions performed with common objects in unusual contexts." Since January 1975, Sherman has created twelve of these Spectacles (as well as two interpretative pieces--"Slight" and "3=1"), with a thirteenth in progress, ranging in subject matter from Portraits of People (8th Spectacle) and Portraits of Places (10th Spectacle) to The Erotic (11th Spectacle) and Language (12th Spectacle). His Spectacles are mostly silent, inducing the viewer to transpose the visually suggested and perceived to the conceptual realm.

Having been a writer (of stories and poems), STUART SHERMAN then became a visual artist, representing complex object-relationships on paper, before deciding, in 1975, that his ideas would be better realized through the medium of direct performance. His Spectacles have since been performed in museums, galleries, theaters, and outdoor settings both in Europe and the United States, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Performing Garage and Artists Space in New York City, the Festival d'Automne in Paris, the Theater of Nations in Hamburg, West Germany, and the Kunstmuseum in Berne, Switzerland. In 1978 Sherman received a Village Voice OBIE Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theater.

Recently, through the medium of film, Sherman has expanded his Spectacle vocabulary to include images from the world-at-large, completing 15 short films in the last three years. Some of these films have been included in both the 1979 and 1981 Whitney Biennial Exhibitions, and several of them will appear this spring on Channel 13's Independent Focus Series.

During March, The Kitchen's Video Viewing Room will present daily tape-programs of Sherman's Spectacles and films, including a tape of the Second Spectacle, featuring performances by Stefan Brecht, Richard Foreman, and Kate Manheim.

484 Broome Street between West Broadway and Wooster, New York City