

# press release

THE KITCHEN

video • music • dance • performance

Contact:  
Barbara Hertel  
212/925-3615

## DENNIS ADAMS

"Kiosks For America"

October 18 - November 3, 1984

Tuesday thru Saturday, 1 - 6 pm

Opening Reception: Thursday October 18, 5 - 7 pm

Dennis Adams' work has long focused on the relationship between text and image particularly in regard to the re-contextualization of meaning precipitated by shifts in one or the other. In the past several years, Adams has pursued this through publicly installed pieces combining large format photography and text in the manner of a typical kiosk such as his bus shelter outside Lincoln Center at Broadway and West 66th Street.

Adams' kiosks operate essentially on two levels. On the one level their utilitarian nature changes the relationship with viewer from that of the usual object-in-the-public-space situation (seeking to enhance public space with the experience of art and/or ratifying corporate or governmental cultural largesse) to a more confrontational one. By intending his kiosks to be fully operational, placing them along regularly scheduled bus routes, Adams puts the viewer into a participatory role not solely relegated to the act of looking.

On another level, Adams seeks to de-construct this relationship, challenging how a kiosk ordinarily functions as a conveyance of public (i.e. commercial) imagery by the kind of information he presents. The result as he describes it is: "an attempt to undermine the link between passivity (waiting) and manipulation (advertising), subverting the network of ideological representations." Adams however eschews a propagandistic stance in the kind of text and images he employs, preferring a more ambiguous position. The ultimate contradiction he seeks is that as points along the "network", the viewer participates fully, being at once collaborator as well as pawn.

Dennis Adams has exhibited his work throughout the United States, most recently at The Whitney Museum Downtown, The Kitchen and as part of Group Material's Subculture Show. He has been recently awarded an NEA Individual Artist's Fellowship for 1984.

59 Wooster Street, New York, New York 10012 (212) 925-3615