

in concert

OCTOBER 11, 1999

NEW YORK

Previews Star-Crossed Others

Photography, filmmaking, and bookish toil left Anita Sieff cold—and lonely. At 47, she has become something of a professional conversationalist. Half the year she gets to while away her time on the Grand Canal in Venice facilitating discussions about art and ideas among scientists, painters, and poets at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection. The other half she spends in the West Village, plotting her quirky installation-happening-performance events. In *Social Sculpture No. 1* (pictured), Sieff simultaneously projects videotaped interviews with twelve different “artists” onto twelve large astrological charts hung on the walls. She orchestrates the rhythms of videotaped speech so that everybody ends up talking to each other, throws in a little music and—*voilà!*—it’s a cocktail party with soul. (On October 15 and 16, 22 live performers will join in the action.) “Although they don’t know each other, there is a common ground,” says Sieff of her twelve subjects. “Everybody in a way catches something from the future that is not yet here in the present.”

She pulls together a bizarre mix of people, among them an Italian psychologist-gynecologist who uses virtual reality to treat impotence, an anthropologist from Mexico City in search of a master, and a musician who, because of a genetic defect, cannot perceive depth with her eyes. Down deep, Sieff’s vision is steeped in old-world Italian abundance: “Why do I do this? Because I don’t like to be alone. I love when people have fun together. Why don’t we all get together and just enjoy?” ERIKA KINETZ



New Europe '99

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Anita Sieff: *Social Sculpture No. 1*
A Video Installation-Happening
Gallery exhibition: Oct 8-17, Free
Hours: Tue-Sat: 2-6 PM
Opening: Oct 8 [Fri] 6-8 PM
Performances: Oct 15 & 16 [Fri & Sat] 8 PM \$12

Italian visual artist Anita Sieff investigates love as an impetus to act. Interviews with twelve artists are projected onto astrological charts. As the images move to different rhythms, the personal journey of each artist becomes part of the evolution of human consciousness. *Social Sculpture no. 1* “comes to life” in two performances during which the documented artists perform their work, furthering the idea of a “social sculpture.”