

For release

artist: Barbara Bloom
opening: Tuesday 1 December, 1998
gallery: Raffaella Cortese Gallery, Via Rodolfo Farneti 10, 20129 Milan
exhibition dates: December 1, 1998 - February 13, 1999
gallery hours: Tuesday to Saturday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. or by appointment.

Ten years after her participation in the Venice Biennale, the American artist Barbara Bloom comes back to Italy for her first personal exhibition, based on small size works of the series *Broken and Repaired Objects* and an installation titled *The Bedroom*.

The *Broken* are objects, either in glass or porcelain, repaired with a special technique from Eastern art. Placed on small shelves and settled near their own photographs and radiographs, which show the invisible inner parts, they are offered as a present to the visitor, wrapped in gift paper or together with delicate packaging created for this purpose by the artist.

Barbara Bloom takes inspiration from an old Japanese tradition: to highlight with some gold a crack, rather than hide it. This enhances the history of the object which is not longer perfect yet becomes more precious and fascinating than a brand new one, without a past.

In fact, to be metaphoric, it means to give more value to the experience, the awareness of our vulnerability and belief in the recovery.

In a different room of the gallery, the artist recreates the setting of a bedroom, maybe in use or maybe left vacant for some time. Few objects, a rug and two prints on the walls: these are the only details and stimulations for the visitor, who is invited to explore the mysterious and unknown place, becoming, at the same time, the person living in *The Bedroom*.

Barbara Bloom was born in Los Angeles in 1951 and, after many years spent in Europe, she lives and works in New York.

During her intense career she participated in important exhibitions and her installations were shown in major American and European museums, such as: Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (inst. *The Reign of Narcissism* 1996); P.S.1, Institute of Contemporary Art, Long Island City, NY (1992); Foundation De Appel, Amsterdam; Serpentine Gallery, London; Kunsthalle, Zürich (1990); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; Biennale, Venice (inst. *Esprit de l'Escalier*, 1988); New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, 1986; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Groninger Museum, Groningen (1982).

Recently her retrospective exhibition *The Collections of Barbara Bloom* was held at the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH.

For further information, please call the gallery