

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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ALLAN WEXLER

THE SHAPE OF FORM

SEPTEMBER 12 - OCTOBER 10

Since his last exhibition in the gallery in 1994, Allan Wexler has received a 1997 Chrysler Award for Design Innovation.

Wexler, who trained as an architect, has chosen not to place his trust in the normal functioning of things. He stages dramas of distrust by linking function and behavior in a variety of often absurd and paradoxical ways....He is less concerned with the impenetrable complexity of the world of objects than with the complexity of our culture and behavior that objects can be brought to reveal.

Bernd Schulz, Director, Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken, Germany

Allan Wexler's exhibition, *The Shape of Form*, continues the artist's investigation of the relationships between the applied arts and the fine arts and explores the nature of invention and the creative process.

In *Re-Searching the House* (36 studies) and *Indeterminacy* (4 pieces), Wexler pairs the issues of site, construction, materials, and function with the process of subconscious design and discovery within self-imposed restrictions of time, size, and material. This has resulted in new and unpredictable house forms.

Some of these investigations were also the catalyst for his most recent paintings and sculptures. The archetypal house, the generic chair, and the 2 x 4 timber are simultaneously abstract shapes and concrete forms. Working with common structures, Wexler probes the relationship between architectural drawings and the objects they represent, as well as the illusion created by paintings and the objects depicted.

The architectural drawing on traditional yellow tracing paper directly becomes real by its use as the construction material. House walls become so thin that they disappear into the drawing of themselves. Built forms de-materialize by the elimination of all weight from the house and the chair. Through multiple permutations, objects lose function to become pure form. Alternatively, the non-objective is made object and is then translated back into the abstract.

An exhibition, *Allan Wexler: The Fine Art of Applied Art*, organized by the Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken, is currently traveling in Europe; the Atlanta College of Art Gallery is organizing a traveling retrospective for 1999-2000. Wexler has been commissioned to create a site-specific public sculpture relating to wind energy for EXPO 2000 in Hannover, Germany. Other commissions include: artworks for public schools with the Percent for Arts Program in New York City; sculptures for Douglass Park with the Santa Monica Department of Cultural Affairs; and a Visual Arts Learning Space for the High Museum in Atlanta.

GG *Allan Wexler*, a monograph, recently published by Editorial Gustavo Gili, SA, Barcelona, is available.

There will be an opening reception September 12 from 6 to 8. Gallery hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 – 6:00. Monday by appointment. For more information and photographs contact Rita MacDonald (212) 226-3232.