

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

For immediate release: August 23, 2002

PEPON OSORIO

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 19

Pepón Osorio will exhibit two new works: a multi-media installation that recreates the offices of a social services agency and a sculpture, *My Beating Heart*, that hangs from the ceiling like a piñata, transmitting the recorded sounds of the artist's heart.

The installation explores the relationship between government social services and one specific family, extending the artist's sphere of inquiry from the decorative excess associated with Latino domestic culture to the institutional environment. Transforming documentary sources, Osorio conveys the desperation of fragile lives with broader observations of society at large.

Osorio's new installation – the culmination of his year as artist-in-residence at the Philadelphia Department of Human Services – is large-scale and dense with objects, encompassing the intersection of public and private realms. Office furnishings and the paraphernalia associated with the workplace recreate the bureaucratic environment. Included also are personal mementos of its inhabitants, that Osorio has reworked and embellished to theatrical effect. The actual possessions of a family in the process of transition are “stored” within the reconstructed setting. Home videos taken by the family, edited and transformed, are projected onto Venetian blinds.

One of the foremost installation artists working today, Osorio received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 1999 and was one of 21 artists featured in the PBS series, *Art:21 – Art in the Twenty-first Century*. He was awarded the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture in 2001.

Two previous installations at the Feldman Gallery include *Las Twines* (1999), a carnival-like setting with sculptural dolls of different skin color, and *Badge of Honor* (1995), based on the relationship between a father in prison and his adolescent son, which has been identified by Dan Cameron, senior curator of the New Museum of Contemporary Art, as “one of the most emotionally devastating artworks produced in the last ten years.” *Pepón Osorio: Door to Door*, an exhibition of four major installations, was simultaneously presented in museums and community spaces in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2000.

There will be an opening reception at the Feldman Gallery on Saturday, September 14 from 6 – 8. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 – 6. Monday by appointment. For information contact Laura Muggeo (212) 226-3232 or laura@feldmangallery.com.