

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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PEPON OSORIO

TRIALS AND TURBULENCE

November 19 – December 17

The life-size re-creations he {Osorio} constructs of everyday spaces...are never literal reproductions. In their attention to detail, they act as carefully stated scenes exaggerating the psychological effects of social spaces.

Jennifer Gonzales, *Bomb*, Winter, 2002/2003

Pepón Osorio's exhibition, *Trials and Turbulence*, features a full-scale recreation of a family court hearing room that incorporates a young woman's real life experiences. Osorio, who chronicles survival within the urban community, constructs overpowering facsimiles of social spaces that function as art in a new context. His multimedia installations recreate the experience of social and political realities and provide an opportunity for reflection. In his new exhibition, Osorio weaves together documentary and transformed material to confront one of the most vulnerable intersections between private life and public policy – the foster care system.

Trials and Turbulence, 2004

The family court setting is complete with judge's bench, spectator chairs, industrial carpet, and other details of an institutional bureaucracy. In the center of the space, as a counterpoint to this environment, an encapsulated structure of wood and glass contains a bathroom, a shrine to the privacy that people are stripped of once their lives enter into the system. As a challenge to the "judge," a video, projected on a shower curtain, gives voice to Adrienne who grew up as a foster child. Another video, which can only be viewed by occupying the judge's chair, depicts pages from a dictionary that relate to her words.

Run Mikey Run, 2004

A second installation, also based on a true story, presents a video of a young boy running away, seen through a wall of wooden pallets that duplicates elements of the location where a lost boy was found. The slow motion video, monumental and looping endlessly, suggests energy and stasis.

These two installations were exhibited at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia in 2004 as part of a larger exhibition that included *Face to Face*, based on the Philadelphia Department of Social Services, which was originally mounted at the Feldman Gallery in 2002. Osorio's other installations at the Feldman Gallery include *Las Twines*, which explores racism within the Hispanic community, and *Badge of Honor*, a portrayal of incarceration and its effect upon the family.

Solo exhibitions by Osorio have been presented at El Museo del Barrio, The Newark Museum, Centro Reina Sofia in Madrid, and in his native Puerto Rico at four locations, organized by Escuela de Artes Plásticas. Osorio is one of the featured artists in the 2001 PBS series "Art:21 – Art in the Twenty-First Century." He is the recipient of a 1999 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and a 2001 Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture.

There will be a reception on November 19, 6 – 8. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 – 6. Monday by appointment. For information, contact Sarah Paulson (212) 226-3232 or sarah@feldmangallery.com.