

# Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

## BRUCE PEARSON

For immediate release: March 19, 1999

## NEW PAINTINGS

APRIL 10 – MAY 8

*Bruce Pearson's Styrofoam relief constructions give letters palpable material form...he checks the pulse of our times, isolating phrases that he views as indexes of "where we are culturally and philosophically."*

- Lilian Tone and Anne Umland, MOMA

\*\*\*

Bruce Pearson will exhibit new paintings in his first one-person exhibition at the Feldman Gallery. The paintings, wall reliefs elaborately constructed from Styrofoam, are based on texts appropriated from popular culture, which are often transformed to the point of indecipherability and abstraction. The paintings provide a sensorial rich overload of color, pattern, and texture. An artist committed to visual pleasure and the seduction of painting, whose tone alternates between the playful and the serious, Pearson investigates the relationship of image, word, and meaning.

The exhibition will also include gouache drawings, autonomous artworks that serve as templates for the three-dimensional paintings whose construction is based on the alternation of negative/positive space.

Pearson works in series that establish parameters for inquiry. **The Recovery Language Series** combines grids of Rorschach and brain-like shapes with texts derived from new age self-help books -- *Today I Will Not Give Into Suicide* and *You Deserve To Be With Someone Who Doesn't Hit You*. The colors imitate the sunny palette of the Post-Impressionists. **The Philosophical Series**, *No No No...*, alludes to the history of Western logic that defines an object by what it is not. Paintings from the **Post-Feminist Masculinity Series**, *Why Can't Love Come in a Six Pack* and *Money Movies Missiles Malls and Madness*, further mine popular culture. Colors are related to commercial paint samples, and grid lines are derived from fashion and sports silhouettes.

Referencing color associations, three paintings with the same title, *Die of Pleasure*, offer color variations of an identical image – a mandala of encoded text radiating outward in orgiastic ripples. One consists of oscillating, psychedelic colors. Another, suggesting spirituality, contains seventy-two variations of white; the third reveals jewel-like colors under a black, glossy surface. Another painting, *A Simple Answer*, is Pearson's largest and most complex work to date, in which quadrant sections of mirroring and reversals of text introduce chance symmetrical elements.

\*\*\*

A recipient of a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Award for Visual Artists in 1997, Bruce Pearson was included in *Project 63: Karin Davie, Udomsak Krisanamis, Bruce Pearson, and Fred Tomaselli* at the Museum of Modern Art, NY in 1998. Other group exhibitions include: *Post-Hypnotic*, University Galleries of Illinois State University, Normal, IL; *Wild*, Exit Art, New York; and *Faux, Other Rooms*, and *Maux Faux* at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts.

\*\*\*

There will be a reception April 10, from 6 – 8. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 – 6. Monday by appointment. For information, contact Breck Hostetter (212) 226-3232 or [breck@feldmangallery.com](mailto:breck@feldmangallery.com).

# Ronald Feldman Fine Arts