

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

For Immediate Release: June 4, 2003

CLEMENS WEISS

drawings + objects as parts of some other idea

June 28 – August 1

Weiss obsessively documents and encapsulates everything with which he comes in contact, and his work ultimately functions as a grandiose time capsule left to be deciphered.

Kirby Gookin ARTFORUM

Clemens Weiss, who lives in New York and Germany, will exhibit recent work at the Feldman Gallery. Weiss has created an environment, largely fashioned from industrial glass and based on a profusion of objects, that is about collection and storage, obsession and logic, transparency and invisibility.

The exhibition consists of more than 1,000 drawings from an on-going series initiated in 1984 – some hung as a series of wall friezes, others stacked on a freestanding glass shelving unit. The early drawings, many erotically-charged, depict characters that seem to derive from a subconscious automatism. Recent drawings are identified by the artist as a kind of “cosmic landscape” or “Weltlandschaften” in which objects are seen from a great distance. Newspapers, used as backings or collaged fragments, contrast contemporary absurdities with the timeless narrative of the drawings.

Sculptural objects, constructed from fragmented industrial plate glass and opaque glue that is angled into multi-faceted structures, merge with their pedestals or rest on crafted glass shelves. Suggesting recognizable shapes, the constructions include a stele with a miniature landscape, a comet concealing a village, figurative elements, and a combination of space age and architectural forms that enclose two quartz crystals. Glass becomes a container that both reveals and blocks access to the dense structures that are enclosed within.

Weiss was born in 1955 in Germany where he studied philosophy and medicine. His work has been exhibited recently at the Kunstverein in Krefeld and the Folkwang Museum in Essen. He was included in *Das XX: Jahrhundert ein Jahrhundert Kunst in Deutschland (The Twentieth Century: 100 Years of Art in Germany)* organized by the Nationalgalerie Berlin in 1999. Commissions include the stage set for *Die Untersuchung eines Zufalls (The Investigation of a Coincidence)* by Alexeji Schipenko, which toured Germany in 2002, and the model for a stage set based on an opera about Anne Frank for Temple Israel, New York. The German government donated a major sculpture by Weiss to the United Nations in Geneva on the occasion of the treaty to end nuclear testing.

There will be a reception for the artist on Saturday, June 28, 6:00 to 8:00.
Summer Gallery Hours: Monday – Thursday, 10:00 to 6:00. Friday, 10:00 to 3:00. For more information, contact Laura Mugge at (212) 226-3232 or laura@feldmangallery.com.