

# Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

31 Mercer Street, New York, New York 10013  
212 226-3232 fax 212 941-1536 www.feldmangallery.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 1994

## **Minetta Lane - A Ghost Story**

**A filmic installation by Eleanor Antin**

**Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, January 14 - February 18, 1995**

*The form of a city changes faster than the human heart.*

*-Baudelaire*

Eleanor Antin's newest filmic installation reconstructs a section of old Greenwich Village in a city crumbling with the erosion of time. It is a Christmas Eve in the wake of the G.I. Bill, an age of innocence, when artists and lovers pursued their Bohemian dreams of creative and personal freedom.

Through separate windows, the viewer witnesses three scenarios unbeknownst to the protagonists. In a basement apartment, a teenage girl and boy soap each other playfully. Next door, an artist works on a large abstract canvas, and in a third window, an elegant, elderly gay man can be seen gently tending to his birds. Miriam, a mysterious spirit or ghost of a twelve-year old girl, flits between apartments, causing chaos and altering the destinies of the inhabitants who cannot see her but can feel her chilling presence. Her actions cause loss, sorrow, even death, and mark the decline of an era, of dreams, and of life itself.

In *Minetta Lane*, as in *Vilna Nights* (1993) and *Loves of a Ballerina* (1986), Antin creates a dream-like, magical setting punctuated with live-action film elements. The effect is hypnotic and surreal.

Antin received a film direction award for *Man Without A World* (1992), a feature-length film which was screened at international film festivals, and has made numerous films including *The Last Night of Rasputin*. A new book by Eleanor Antin will be available during the exhibition: *Eleanor Antinova Plays*, 250 pages, 15 illustrations, 1994, \$12.95, published by Sun & Moon Press.

There will be an opening reception on Saturday, January 14 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 to 6:00. For more detailed information on the artist or the installation, or photographs, please contact Amanda Smith at (212)226-3232.

More Details on *Minetta Lane - A Ghost Story*, by Eleanor Antin

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, January 14 - February 18, 1995

Minetta Lane, a small alley between MacDougal Street and 6th Avenue, is in the old Bohemian area of New York's Greenwich Village. The narrow lane is lined with old fashioned two and three-story houses, seedy and run down in a genteel way. It is a neighborhood that time forgot, left to decay discreetly and silently while the trucks rumble past and concrete and glass condos darken the skies behind it.

The work evokes the lost artists' Bohemia of the Village, in the 40s and 50s just prior to the economic explosion of the American art scene. The war was over. There was money enough from the G.I. Bill for artists to live and work in a low rent district where an artists' community was already established. Studios were cheap, as were paints, canvases, food, booze and cigarettes. Throughout the Village, young people were writing, painting, being psychoanalyzed, and fooling around with the bourgeoisie. Life and love were free, experimental and safe - it was an age of innocence.

The installation consists of three parts: an antechamber of rubble and dust leading to a life-scale reproduction of a fragment of an old Village street in whose windows one can watch something of the lives of its long gone inhabitants. These narrative films, transferred onto video disc, are run on a computer program and back-projected trompe l'oeuil fashion, onto the windows. In another part of the gallery on a single monitor, a video loop plays over and over the city's remorseless destruction of itself.