

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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HANNAH WILKE

About Face

September 9 –October 7

In November 1986, Hannah Wilke began a series of watercolor self-portraits. Eight months later, and during the following two years, she extended the series in a larger format (52 x 72 inches). This group of paintings comprise her current exhibition at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts with related graphic and photographic works created before and during this period. This new series, titled *B.C.*, is composed of watercolor images that are simply faces – disturbing but luminous, abstract but real. They continue the self-images that have been central to Wilke's sculpture, photography, video and film since the mid-1960's. They represent what is seen and understood by the artist of her own physical and emotional state, which included the onset of illness before she was fully aware of it.

More than any of her earlier work, the paintings recognize and signify change – the recording of moment and chance, the workings of a constantly changing inner voice. Complementing them are photographs and drawings of events, people, and relationships that are the context for the self-portraits.

There will be a reception for the artist on Saturday, September 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 – 6, Mondays by appointment. For more information, please contact Susan Yung at (212)226-3232.

Available in September: *Hannah Wilke: A Retrospective*, essay by Joanna Frueh, edited by Thomas H. Kocheiser, University of Missouri Press, 1989. 176 pages, 55 color & 77 b/w illustrations, \$25.