

Thomas Erben Gallery

www.thomaserbcn.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADRIAN PIPER

EARLY DRAWINGS
and other works

December 7 - January 20, 2001

Opening: Thursday, December 7, 6 - 8:30 pm

Thomas Erben is very pleased to present ADRIAN PIPER'S third exhibition at the gallery, which will run concurrently with a retrospective of the artist's work at The New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York (Oct. 26 - Jan. 21), and with a show of recent work at Paula Cooper Gallery (Nov. 30 - Jan. 6).

The exhibition's foundations are in Piper's early studies from the sixties in which she conceptualized drawing as a medium. Influenced partly by such artists as [Barnett Newman](#), [Jasper Johns](#) and [Sol LeWitt](#), as well as academic figure studies, she established the formal vocabulary which she has employed in her art throughout the last 30 years.

"Drawings about Paper" (1967) explore materiality and modernist formalism; "Writings about Words" (1967) take the form of concrete poetry, where personal subject matter is subjected to a system translating content into visual form; "Charted Work Proposal" (1968) maps her artistic activities in the following year, on a grid with time and space coordinates, and her figure studies (some of them under the influence of [LSD](#)) represent both academic pursuits and an interest in the body as an actor and a medium. All of these pieces are executed with the same coolly analytical sensibility.

In 'Vanilla Nightmares' (1986-1990), a series of drawings executed on newspaper pages, figures are altered or inserted to relate to and undermine information structures and content.

In the 'Decide Who You Are' series, (1992) poetry and monologues, either angry or defensive, share grid space with white authority figures, policemen, domestic and violent scenes. Two recurring images: a photograph of a young [Anita Hill](#), and a drawing of three apes each covering ears, eyes or mouth (not seeing, not hearing, not speaking), comment ironically on the activities of the other figures, and together describe the economic and political situation in America and the world in 1992, and 8 years later.

For more information and visuals, please visit us at www.thomaserben.com or contact the gallery at 212-645.8701.

Hours: Tuesdays - Saturdays 10-6

516 West 20th Street New York NY 10011-2820

phone 212-645.8701 fax 212-645.9630

email info@thomaserben.com