

The Museum of Modern Art

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FOR RELEASE:

PROJECTS: RICHARD TUTTLE AND DAVID NOVROS

PROJECTS: RICHARD TUTTLE AND DAVID NOVROS, part of a continuing series of exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art intended to inform the public of recent developments in contemporary art, is devoted to the work of two young American artists. On view through July 17, the exhibition is being held on the first floor in an area divided into two separate galleries whose walls form an integral part of the work of both artists.

In an enclosed space, Richard Tuttle has installed four related works (one on each wall) which consist of thin pencil line drawings over which a coiled wire is laid. "Gravity, the drawing, and the wire's tensile strength coincide to make a new 'drawing' which in turn makes a third drawing of shadows if the work is lighted," says the artist. Although Tuttle expects the viewer to look at the individual elements used in the pieces, the thrust of his work is the investigation of visual problems such as the nature of illusion and space, physical and pictorial reality, the sculptural and the two-dimensional, as well as the creation of a pure, contemplative space.

In contrast with Tuttle's work, David Novros has painted a mural in fresco technique which covers a wall 10 feet high and 32 feet long. Seldom used in America, the slow process of fresco making requires the services of a professional plasterer who builds up the painting surface in sections layer by layer while the artist works close by on the completed areas, brushing on the color before the absorbent surface of the plaster hardens. For Novros, fresco painting developed naturally from painting on canvas, and one of his recent large oil paintings is installed on the opposite wall. Both the fresco and the oil have compositions based on a system of interlocking L shapes and rectangular units ranging from narrow bars to squares that Novros places

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on vertical and horizontal axes. Large areas of color, mostly in rich earth tones, alternate with passages of unpainted white plaster and as the fresco "cures" Novros' brushwork becomes more apparent.

Tuttle, 31, was born in Rahway, New Jersey and Novros, 31, was born in Los Angeles, California. Both artists now live in New York and have had many one-man exhibitions in the United States and Europe, and have also participated in numerous group shows here and abroad.

The exhibition, directed by Jane Neol, Curatorial Assistant in the Department of Painting and Sculpture, is part of a series of small exhibitions begun last May. Earlier PROJECTS exhibitions were devoted to work by Keith Sonnier, Mel Bochner, Sam Gilliam, Nancy Graves, Lee Friedlander, Richard Long and Emmanuel Pereire. One exhibition in the series, PROJECTS: PIER 18, was a group show of works by 27 artists.

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