

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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PROJECTS: HIRSCH PERLMAN
March 28 - May 21, 1996

A new installation by American artist Hirsch Perlman (b. 1960) is the subject of the next **PROJECTS** exhibition, on view at The Museum of Modern Art from March 28 through May 21, 1996. Organized by Thomas W. Collins, Jr., Beaumont and Nancy Newhall Curatorial Fellow, Department of Photography, **PROJECTS: HIRSCH PERLMAN** employs videos, photographs, and text to explore the artist's continuing interest in man's inability, or unwillingness, to engage in meaningful or honest communication.

The current project comprises three video pieces with very different tones installed in separate, adjacent rooms. Each room contains a photographic still or stills from the video it houses, with a caption that alludes to the essence of the piece. In "A Nearly Perfect Conversation," a man and a woman (Wayne Allwine and Russi Taylor), seemingly long-time partners, sit at a kitchen table trying to connect with one another through banal comments. They come tantalizingly close to a meeting of the minds but ultimately, the conversation deteriorates into non sequiturs.

In "Acute Conversation," a passive person seeks reassurance from his more dominant, sadistic partner, who refuses to comply. The caption on this still declares "This is for your own good." Three different pairs of actors perform this piece in sequence on the tape: T.J. Paolino and Stephen Vaughn; Martin Barter and Kirk Woller; and A Martinez and Carl Weintraub.

"Complete Conversation," the centerpiece of the **PROJECTS** tryptic, features two men (Mervyn Cedarhurst and Arye Gross) who are arrogant but essentially insecure. In contrast to "Acute Conversation," each says what his partner wants to hear, hoping the same will be done for him. The actors in this piece will be featured on separate, synchronized monitors, placed across

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