


The Museum of Modern Art

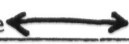

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PROJECTS: CHARLES SIMONDS

PROJECTS: CHARLES SIMONDS, the first complete indoor installation by the artist whose imaginary "Little People" have previously inhabited such locations as window ledges and abandoned lots in Soho and the Lower East Side and such faraway places as Paris, Genoa, and Venice, will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from October 14 through December 2, 1976. The exhibition, which presents the civilization of the "Little People" complete with artifacts and environment, has been directed by Howardena Pindell, Assistant Curator of Prints and Illustrated Books.

Simonds' diminutive structures of clay, sand, and sticks for the complicated and diverse "living archeology" of his imaginary civilization have been evolving since 1970. Among the sites shown are the caves from which the "Little People" first emerged; the dwellings of one group who constantly travel, building onward, leaving their past behind them, and the cyclical colony of  (people who live in a spiral), who stay in one place and build in an ascending spiral "with the past, constantly buried, serving as building material for the future." Other areas include a large mountain; a river; several sacred ritual spots, marked out with stakes; the dwellings of a group which builds with bricks containing seed, so that their shelter eventually becomes their food; and the large occupied city which is the latest stage of the "Little People" civilization.

To accompany the complex of structures, Simonds has created a "key" map through which the viewer can trace the civilization's evolution and learn its mythologies concerning birth, initiation, and dissolution. Binoculars will also be provided to permit closer scrutiny of the highly detailed structures, none of which occupies more than a few square feet.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the films Birth, Landscape  Body  Dwelling, and Dwellings will be shown at the Museum at noon on Friday October 22 and Monday, November 8.

Additional information available from Michael Boodro, Assistant and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. New York, New York 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7504; 7501.