

Zhou Documents

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Exhibition Introduction: A Tale of Two Rooms and a Blind Man

Bo NIU 牛波

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Z GALLERY

CENTRAL

FINE ARTS,

I N C.

For Immediate Release
February, 1996

Niu Bo " A Tale of Two Rooms and a Blind Man"

March 1 - April 20, 1996

This spring Niu Bo, one of mainland China's leading contemporary artists, will create an installation at Z Gallery, 70 Greene Street, New York, called " A Tale of Two Rooms and a Blind Man". At once a work of serious Buddhist art and an artful meditation upon the different spiritual nature of Western and Asian civilizations, " A Tale of Two Rooms and a Blind Man" will be a powerful, moving, and imaginative evocation of what is certain to be one of the great challenges of the 21st century: bringing East and West together in ways that transcend the merely economic.

The first room will be entirely dark and will include only objects that can be felt, smelled, or sensed.

The second room will be bright and include, among other things, symbols of the Western way of rationally ordering the world, such as pre-industrial tools.

Seated in this second room will be a blind man. Visitors will be invited to explain to the blind man the objects they felt, smelled, or sensed in the dark room. The blind man will then create their impression out of clay.

The form of the work is rooted in a book that Niu Bo discovered in Tibet, the still unpublished " Tibetan Book of Birth," which will in the artist's view prove as important as the now famous "Tibetan Book of Death".

The invitation to the show will itself be a surprising work of art that the artist prefers to keep a secret.

Niu Bo, who is now 36 years old, spent almost a year in prison in mainland China for making art that the communist authorities deemed subversive. Last fall he attracted serious attention for a "Skywriting" piece, called " Tower of Babel", in which he used a plane to twirl a spiral of smoke behind the Statue of Liberty--one of his many deft, poetic, and memorable evocations of freedom.

For more information please call Z Gallery at 966-8836

Invitation will be sent to you shortly

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