



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 26, 2005

PRO ARTS PROJECT
***Remembering* by Judy Spiegel**

January 26–February 27, 2005

Pro Arts is pleased to invite you to the first American exhibition of *Remembering* an installation by Berkeley-based artist Judy Spiegel. The exhibition opens on Wednesday, January 26 at Noon. A reception for the artist will take place on Thursday, February 17, from 6–8pm.

This exhibition is the first in a new rolling series of exhibitions at Pro Arts called PROJECT. This series will present works which dialogue with topical issues and art practices from the wider contemporary art discourse—with an emphasis on exploring social practices, new genre, large scale installation, off-site projects and new media.

Remembering is composed of roughly 3,000 palm-sized encaustic works on paper, installed with steel pins on the front wall of the gallery. Each work is irregularly stained and encrusted with encaustic wax and coffee grinds. Many of the individual pieces bear legible text of disconcertingly familiar, yet common first names. The artist originally conceived this work in an attempt to visually articulate the loss of life from the events of September 11, 2001. It is an effort to recognize individuals within masses—and the monumentality of masses created from individuals. The presentation references somber and tragically beautiful death notices pasted at eye level in public spaces post-WWII, which the artist experienced first hand while traveling in Poland prior to the end of the Cold War. Standing as evocations of human presence while simultaneously testifying to absence, Spiegel became interested in how the larger site of the notices became memorials in themselves and relics of human history.

This installation is plainly topical to current world events—the natural disaster of the Tsunami and the continued war in Iraq represent only the most salient of examples. Stoic and unsentimental, it offers an ephemeral sense of overwhelming numbers and a physical place for the contemplation of human life. This installation was part of a touring exhibition in Germany during 2002 - 2003. *Remembering* is also accompanied by an installation of new untitled encaustic book works by the artist. In these works and in others, the artist explores contemporary applications for ancient, traditional means of art production through papermaking, bookmaking and encaustic painting. Immediately somber in both palette and scale, Spiegel's work integrates references to both ancient historical documents and the more contemporary work of artists such as Anselm Kiefer and John Latham amongst others.

Select examples from Judy Spiegel's exhibition history include the Women's Museum (Bonn, Germany), Galerie M (Berlin, Germany), HANG ART (San Francisco, California), and WORKS (San Jose, California). Her work has been reviewed in several venues including ARTWEEK, Neues Deutschland and on National Public Radio. Pro Arts is the first American venue to exhibit *Remembering*.

Pro Arts is located at 550 Second Street, Oakland, CA, 94607. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday, Noon - 6pm; and Sunday, Noon - 5pm. Entrance is free.

Pro Arts is a nonprofit artist-based membership organization serving the San Francisco Bay Area's diverse cultural communities. Find out more at www.proartsgallery.org

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For more information, please contact:
Christian L. Frock, Director of Exhibitions & Programming at christian@proartsgallery.org or 510/763-9425.