

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
May 1990

ICON

May 10 - July 31, 1990

In Icon, a site-specific video installation incorporating photography and video, Montreal-based artist Barbara Steinman questions the dynamic between language, representation, and power structures. Opening at The Museum of Modern Art on May 10, 1990, Icon also defines the video gallery as an intimate, private space within the exterior, more public one of the Museum. The exhibition remains on view through July 31.

On Monday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m., in conjunction with the exhibition, Barbara Steinman discusses other recent installation projects. Her talk is part of the Museum's Video Viewpoints series in which independent videomakers present their work. Tickets are included with Museum admission; available tickets are free after 6:00 p.m.

The installation features a six-foot-square framed photograph of a marble Madonna, taken as a conservation study; a second photograph, a distorted and grainy close-up of the first, is displayed in a six-foot-square light box. Placed in a corner of the gallery, behind oval panes of frosted glass, are two video monitors. Each projects an image of a test tube; one slowly fills with blood, while the second remains empty.

In using the image of a Madonna, the artist questions the meaning of an icon both as a religious and as an art object, especially when presented in the context of a museum devoted to twentieth-century art. The different framing devices, as well as the layering of projected images behind glass, invite the viewer to consider what lies beneath the surface of an image.

-more-

