

STEFFANY MARTZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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**"CHERNOBYL SOLUTIONS"
PETER FEND**

April 25 - May 25, 1996
Opening Reception: April 25 6 - 8 pm

Steffany Martz is pleased to present "Chernobyl Solutions," an exhibition by New York based architecture artist Peter Fend, showing for Ocean Earth Development Corporation. The exhibition consists of drawings, photographs and architectural models illustrating Fend's proposal to end the continuing nuclear contamination of the water and land resources surrounding the Chernobyl reactor site, as well as the possibility of a second disaster. The works on display make use of satellite surveys conducted by Ocean Earth starting in 1986 and a series of discussions in Russia and Ukraine, from which Fend has just returned.

The specific designs for the river diversions at the center of "Chernobyl Solutions" are based on earthworks from the 1960's and 1970's by Dennis Oppenheim and Michael Heizer, and the diversions of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers undertaken by Iraq with advice from Soviet military and hydrological engineers during the Iran/Iraq war. The exhibition is timed to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl explosion, opening on April 25, and will run through May 25. Opening reception will be Thursday, April 25, from 6 - 8 pm.

As is widely known, contamination from the Chernobyl reactor complex continues to spread. At the same time, the measures taken to contain the damage from the original meltdown are increasingly inadequate. The Ukrainian Environmental Ministry recently warned of the possibility of a second explosion at the damaged reactor unless steps are taken to further secure it. But the ministry said Ukraine doesn't have the financial resources to deal with the problem. The situation is particularly urgent because of this winter's high accumulation of snow. Given the hydrological instabilities identified by Fend at the site, the pressure of rushing spring waters and mud could be enough to cause further dislocation of the reactor structures.

The "Chernobyl Solutions" proposed in this exhibition by Fend (described by the London Times as an "expert" on Chernobyl because of what British scientists confirmed about his findings) would not only take care of these problems, but would also replace the energy supplied by the reactor complex and provide a crucial element so far missing from most discussions: the likelihood of financial gain.

"Chernobyl Solutions" is part of a series of projects entitled "Eurasian Scenario," first exhibited in London in April, 1994. A version of "Chernobyl Solutions," accounting for what takes place and what is learned, is set for presentation in Moscow starting June 11.

This exhibition is mounted in cooperation with American Fine Arts Company.

For further information, please contact Steffany Martz (212)334-3348.
Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 6pm.