

SCOTT HANSON GALLERY

415 West Broadway, New York, NY 10012 • (212) 334-0041

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THE SCOTT HANSON GALLERY

PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION

OF WORKS BY PETER FEND

THE SCOTT HANSON GALLERY presents an exhibition of works by **Peter Fend** from April 21 to May 24, 1988, at 415 West Broadway (tel: 334-0041).

Peter Fend is an architect whose prime concern is the Planet. Assuming that the architectural task is to create a habitable environment, he asks what must be done to achieve that. He draws on Earth Art for terrain work, on Conceptual Art for structures, and on Video Art for more efficient displays of site information, and he gathers a wide range of ecological and structural science in order to establish what the editor of Architecture Aujourd'hui described as one of the most practical and thorough programs of construction of viable cities within vigorous hinterland. Much is a continuation, as with Matta-Clark, of Constructivism and Futurism.

In this exhibition, Fend presents his territorial plans. He shows maps of saltwater basins, usually in assemblages corresponding with the spinoff of Earth's planes from the Poles. Each assemblage results from natural forces, and so is striking and aesthetic. But each assemblage also constitutes a delineation of public space, and so suggests political possibilities.

(more)

A starting point has been the years of investigation into Renaissance architecture and the correlative formation of the Renaissance garden-modeled nation state, by Vincent Scully of Yale. The investigations, recently published as a book, show how the formation of nation states, starting with France, correspond with the expansionist program of construction of Renaissance-spatial forms. Towards the end of his book, Scully asks what might be the new spatio-territorial forms arising from recent Art. The maps on exhibit are Fend's response.

Drawing on the saltwork analyses of Marcel Duchamp, as Marchand du Sel, and on the subsequent salt-earthworks of Dennis Oppenheim and Robert Smithson, for example, Fend identifies the saltwater basin as a region in which to site those earthworks, or commensurate unpolluted and vigorous cities, or any ecologically suitable architecture. Each basin is a collector of salts, soil, and water -- and of pollutants. Each can be managed and monitored as a whole. And almost all of them now, sometimes very seriously, are beset with loss of topsoil, deforestation, saltification of groundwater and soil, contamination with pollutants and wastes, and habitat decline. These facts are well known. The maps outline frameworks within which to respond.

To suggest direction, Fend also shows the first elements of a program for action, one derived from the Fat Corner works of Joseph Beuys, the other from video art, and manifested as satellite monitoring for mass media.

Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM.

For further information contact: Linda Silberberg 212-334-0041.