

Barbara Astman, personal/persona: A 20-year Survey

January 5 to February 18, 1996

Organized by the Art Gallery of Hamilton



**Barbara Astman will
present a slide lecture
January 21, 1:30 pm**

This exhibition is a twenty-year survey of the work of Toronto artist Barbara Astman. It spans her earliest work in photography and colour photocopy completed after her graduation from the Ontario College of Art in 1973 to her most recent series, *Seeing and Being Seen*. Central to Astman's artistic practice over this entire period has been the insertion into her work of both the personal (especially in terms of her emotional responses to life), contrasted with a 'persona'—a stand-in for herself.

Liz Wylie, guest curator, writes that the "well-spring" for Barbara Astman's work has been "her own emotional responses...to her life situations. I see this as archetypally

female. She continually gauges her emotions, translates them, creates visual forms and metaphors for them."

For this first exhibition overview of Barbara Astman's career, the Art Gallery of Hamilton has borrowed more than 50 works from public, private and corporate collections, as well as several works from the artist—works that trace Astman's career from her early 1970's black and white photographs, photo-based assemblages, Xerox and Polaroid work, sculptures and photo-based work of the past ten years, to her most recent work with computer-assisted images.

Astman has consistently made use of new technologies

and unconventional materials and incorporated text within her work to explore personal narrative, memory, and issues of gender and identity.

Barbara Astman has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Canada and internationally since the early 1970's, and has work in public collections in Canada—including the Kamloops Art Gallery which has 17 works spanning three decades donated by Barbara Astman—the United States and England. Astman has been active in the Toronto arts community and has taught at the Ontario College of Art since 1975.

Organized by the Art Gallery of Hamilton with the financial assistance of The

Canada Council and the Jackman Foundation, the exhibition will travel to the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery and the Edmonton Art Gallery before coming to Kamloops. An important catalogue of this exhibition which includes quotations from the artist and relevant text by other curators and critics will be available in the Gift Shop in the Gallery. *Supported in Kamloops by sponsors of the Contemporary Vision programme: British Columbia Lottery Corporation, CFJC-TV7, Coast Canadian Inn, Fulton & Company, Morelli Chertkow Lawyers, Pazzazz Clothing Etc., Pollard Banknote (BC) Ltd., Price Waterhouse.*