

News Release

For More Information/Photos--Ron Platt 617/253-4400

MIT LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER EXPLORES "TROUBLE IN PARADISE"
--New England artists address social and political issues--
October 6 - November 19, 1989
Public Reception October 5, 5-7 pm

TROUBLE IN PARADISE, a major exhibition on view at the MIT List Visual Arts Center October 6-November 19, will feature the work of fourteen New England artists or artist-teams who address topical political and social issues which face the United States. The exhibition will feature painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, and environmental installations by regional artists working in a variety of styles. Few of the featured artists have received wide critical attention, and for some this is their first museum exhibition.

List Center Curator Dana Friis-Hansen stated "Much of the excitement--and the challenge--of contemporary art is its relevance to the current political and social climate. Several of these artists have created works in reaction to political events of the past few months, including the Supreme Court decisions regarding the American flag and reproductive rights or congressional actions to limit artistic expression, while others confront difficult issues which have long plagued the nation, including racism, sexism, substance abuse, and domestic violence. The exhibition explores the tension between the notion of paradise--a concept firmly rooted in New England traditions since the landing of the Puritans--and contemporary disruptions which undermine it."

Censorship, racism, sexism, homelessness, militarism, hazardous waste, AIDS, domestic violence, and substance abuse are some of the issues investigated by the artists in TROUBLE IN PARADISE.

TROUBLE IN PARADISE will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue featuring an essay entitled "What's Wrong with This Picture?" and entries about each artist by Dana Friis-Hansen, as well as biographies and bibliographies for each artist. The publication will be available shortly after the exhibition's opening at the gallery's information desk or by mail order. The exhibition is part of the List Center's ongoing "Local Visions" series which focuses on lesser-known area artists.