

N E W S R E L E A S E

**JANA STERBAK: STATES OF BEING OPENS
LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER'S 1991-92 SEASON**

The exhibition Jana Sterbak: States of Being, a ten year overview of this Czech-born Canadian artist's work will be on view at the MIT List Visual Arts Center from October 5 to November 24, 1991. The artist will be present at a public reception on Friday, October 4, from 5 to 7 pm. Jana Sterbak: States of Being consists of approximately fifteen sculptural works ranging in media from cast bronze and lead to such unusual materials as dressmaker's tapes, electrical stove coils, and raw flank steak. The exhibition also includes a number of the artist's drawings and photographs.

Jana Sterbak moved to Canada from Czechoslovakia in 1968, and currently resides in Montreal. Both sensational and cerebral, her work may be considered in the context of recent art that examines social and cultural conditions. Using the human body as sign and symptom of a pervasive malaise, the artist presents us with ordinary, physical objects -- dresses, furniture and body parts -- that attract us because they are familiar. Yet they are also repellent, because the artist has transformed and activated her sculptures in surprising ways, each work awakening specific emotions, some of them difficult to admit. Sterbak uses the physical properties of materials as analogues for psychological states, or, as she herself has observed, "the material becomes part of the idea". One of Sterbak's most important works is *Vanitas: Flesh Dress for an Albino Anorectic*, a dress of raw meat in which the artist comments upon both the objectification of women and the perishable nature of the human body.

In conjunction with the exhibition's opening reception, the performance *Remote Control* will take place on Friday, October 4 at 5:30 pm, in the Center's adjacent courtyard. On Thursday October 24 at 7 pm, Czech art historian Milena Kalinovska will present the lecture "In Search of...Jana Sterbak," at the List Visual Arts Center's Bartos Theatre (Wiesner Building, lower level). An illustrated catalogue, containing 15 color and 35 black and white illustrations, an interview with the artist and an essay by exhibition curator Diana Nemiroff, is available at the gallery desk or by mail.

Jana Sterbak: States of Being was organized by the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. Partial support for the exhibition in Cambridge has been provided by the Canadian Consulate General, Boston.

The MIT List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, 20 Ames Street, Cambridge, five minutes walk from the Kendall Square Red Line T Station. Parking is available at the corner of Ames and Main Streets. All List Visual Arts Center exhibitions and events are free and open to the public.