

## N E W S R E L E A S E

KENNETH GOLDSMITH'S *73 POEMS*  
AT THE LIST VISUAL ARTS CENTER

The List Visual Arts Center will present a series of 80 graphite drawings by New York artist Kenneth Goldsmith titled *73 Poems* from March 6 through April 17, 1993. *73 Poems* are text on paper compositions combining visual art, poetry, literature and music. Based on a stream of consciousness rhyming system, Goldsmith's phrases, words, letters and numbers are chosen for their associative and suggestive meanings and sound effects.

Goldsmith is inspired by a multiplicity of sources ranging from high art to popular culture. He draws freely from the work of James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, John Cage, Joseph Kosuth, Bob Dylan, and names and events in the daily news. *73 Poems* took a full year to complete and serves as a record of the changes in the artist's life during that time. Each poem sprung intuitively from its predecessor - in fact, the black block lettering of one drawing fades to gray to provide the background of the next. The drawing cycle begins and ends with the same poem or line "brother, lover, mother, other, smother, another, undercover," as does Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake*, creating a closed circular system that rings the gallery. Graphically stunning, witty, and set to a hip-hop beat, Goldsmith's layered texts "condense all manner of experience, information and colloquial talk into striking images that are as pleasurable to speak out loud as to look at" according to Roberta Smith of *The New York Times*.

JOAN LA BARBARA will perform a new vocal work based on Kenneth Goldsmith's *73 Poems* on Sunday, March 7 at 3 p.m. in the List Visual Arts Center's Bartos Theater. La Barbara and Goldsmith have dedicated this collaborative work-in-progress to the late composer John Cage. Described as "one of the great vocal virtuosos of our time" by the *San Francisco Examiner*, La Barbara is an important pioneer in the field of contemporary classical music and has developed a unique vocabulary of experimental and extended vocal techniques. Her career as a composer, singer, and sound artist has been devoted to exploring the human voice as a multi-faceted instrument. This performance is part of a larger collaboration between Goldsmith and La Barbara which will culminate in a compact disc and book produced by Permanent Press, New York.

The MIT List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, 20 Ames Street, Cambridge, five minutes 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. For further information contact Ron Platt at (617) 253-4400.