

MODERN PAINTERS

SPECIAL AMERICAN ISSUE

AN INSTALLATION BY **Richard Prince**

Peter Beard INTERVIEWED BY ROBERT ENRIGHT

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I KNEW A GUY WHO WAS SO RICH HE COULD
SKI UP HILL. ANOTHER ONE, I TOLD MY MOTHER-
IN-LAW MY HOUSE IS YOUR HOUSE. LAST
WEEK SHE SOLD IT. ANOTHER ONE...



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'ART DOWNTOWN'
Wall Street
14 June - 15 September

TO ENTICE PEOPLE BACK TO NEW

York's devastated downtown financial district in the aftermath of September 11, a local group called Wall Street Rising has created a summer mini-blockbuster, 'Art Downtown'. The exhibition has been staged in five donated lobby spaces around Wall Street with generous loans of art by the artists and galleries involved and support from local businesses.

Curated by Richard D Marshall, formerly of the Whitney Museum, 'Art Downtown' features more blue-chips than the nearby Stock Exchange. Marshall has filled the ornate Great Banking Hall of the newly renovated Bank of New York building with work by over 50 of New York's top artists, including Roy Lichtenstein, Jeff Koons, Louise Bourgeois, Andy Warhol, Donald Judd, Francesco Clemente

and Kiki Smith. Jenny Holzer's ticker-tape LED Yellow Rafters (2001), stands out, as does Karin Davie's Interior Ghosts #6 and new paintings by Cecily Brown and Alexis Rockman. Laurie Munn's series of paintings, 'The Presidents is charming and funny in a side-office redolent of old world banking with period fireplace and mouldings. On the waterfront, Julian Schnabel has five enormous paintings from the series 'Hat Full of Rain' adorning One New York Plaza's granite lobby. The paintings are perfectly in scale with this massive space, and the shifting light from the harbour favours Schnabel's

open-handed brushwork and scribbled text. John Chamberlain's steel sculpture The Hedge creates a low barrier wall of open blocks of crushed and painted metal that divides the immense entrance hall of 60 Wall Street. It is a handsome piece, but even such a major sculptural intervention can't improve this hideous half-acre of landscaped lobby.

The 'New Photography' show at The Exchange, 23 Broad Street, is the most dynamic of the exhibitions. It is a wonderful survey of key artists and trends in colour photography over the past 20 years. The excellent overall quality reaffirms the staying power of major figures like Robert Mapplethorpe, Nan Goldin, Cindy Sherman and Thomas Struth, and also showcases work by younger wrists such as Justine Kurland, Dana Hoey, Olaf Breuning and Anthony Goicolea. Altogether it creates a fascinating forum of visual narratives.

The lobby of 45 Wall Street hosts an exhibition of art made by local schoolchildren to work brought their experiences of September 11. This auxiliary show acts as a counterpoint to the main exhibitions, since 'Art Downtown' deliberately did not take on this subject, which has already been the focus of numerous exhibitions this year in New York. Given the context of the show, however, works such as Warhol's Camouflage, Catherine Opie's Untitled (#15) (from Wall Street), Spencer Tunick's Chinatown and MacDermott & MacGough's Super Hero Dreamer #21.945 take on heightened significance. AL