

PACE GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

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LUCAS SAMARAS: BRONZE SCULPTURES AND PASTELS
February 19 - March 20, 1982

An exhibition of new bronze sculptures and pastels by Lucas Samaras will open at The Pace Gallery on February 19, 1982 and continue through March 20. An illustrated catalogue with an essay by Donald Kuspit will accompany the exhibition which, with the Richard Gray Gallery in Chicago and the Mayor Gallery in London, forms a 3-part exhibition of Samaras' new work.

Samaras' new small bronze sculptures represent transformed figures which appear to be in a state of physical evolution, with body parts disjointed, melting into and emerging from one another. Winged appendages on several bronzes suggest mythical and religious themes. The heavily worked surfaces of the sculptures are complexly modeled and glow with a rich patina.

The new pastels are self-portraits. These works continue Samaras' exploration of his own image and psyche, his investigations of himself as model. The pastel is applied energetically, with a passion for deep, vibrant colors. Both the new sculptures and these latest additions to Samaras' extensive body of work in pastel build upon the artist's most recent preoccupation with the figure in his series of photographs entitled Sittings.

In the current exhibition of bronze sculptures and pastels, Samaras displays both strains of an artistic sensibility which Hilton Kramer describes as Samaras' capacity to "be counted on to provide a surprise. On the one hand, he specializes in the well-planned esthetic; on the other, he sets out to dazzle and entertain, even to please, and usually succeeds."

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