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LUCAS SAMARAS
Cubes, Pragmata + Trapezoids
October 22 - November 26, 1994

Cubes, Pragmata + Trapezoids, new work from Lucas Samaras, will be on view at PaceWildenstein, 142 Greene Street, beginning Saturday, October 22 and continuing through Saturday, November 26, 1994.

Lucas Samaras was born in Macedonia, Greece in 1936 and arrived in New York in 1948. He became an active figure in the New York art world in the early 1960s when he participated in the first series of "Happenings."

Since that time Samaras has become widely known for his diverse use of media including: chicken-wire boxes, Cor-Ten steel, fabric, pastel, pencil, plaster, Polaroid and oil. The current exhibition includes some 64 paintings and sculptures made in bronze, latex, masonite, Nevamar (grey formica) and wood.

Samaras' Pragmata, small bronze sculptures, recall early work both from the 1960s, when the artist stuffed modeled plaster guts into boxes and later, as well as his now renowned bronze figures of the early 1980s. These works differ however in their attempt to reduce art to the primeval matter from which it originates. Jan Avgikos remarks in her catalogue text "Characteristic to each of the sculptural references... is their handmade quality. Staccato rhythms and lyric fluidity punctuate form with varying high-low, hard-soft, rough-smooth sequences. They do not warn off the viewer; rather they invite participatory touch...they compose a warm, saturated meditation on simple, human pleasures and on morality as well."

The second and third groups of work included in the exhibition continue in this reductionist vein. The Cubes, free-standing Nevamar on wood sculptures, recall the familiar forms in all of Samaras' structures (boxes and mirrored rooms for instance), yet their spare presentation tends to distill rather than decorate these ideas. The Trapezoids, monochromatic paintings made of latex on Nevamar on masonite, effect the same re-analysis of the artist's two-dimensional geometric work such as the mosaic paintings and pastels.

An opening reception will be held on Saturday, October 22, 1994 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at 142 Greene Street.

PACEWILDENSTEIN