

PRESS RELEASE

Curated by Kathryn Hixson and Tony Tasset
Louder

Gallery 400
Chicago, IL
October 21–December 13, 1991

Opening Reception: October 23, 1991, 4–7pm

The work of the twenty-four artists in *Louder*, a group exhibit curated by Chicago critic Kathryn Hixson and artist and UIC professor Tony Tasset, deals with the adolescent experiences of coming of age and self-definition. As a seeming reaction to various trends within the art world, and in the societal and economic context of the United States in the early 1990s, a number of artists have produced work that draws from the peculiarly awkward stage impending adulthood: adolescence. The work relies on representations or references to the body as the site of evolving sexual and societal definition—not presenting a “responsible” or “politically correct” whole adult self, but rather an adolescent one that refuses to be repressed. The work revolves around the projected image of the self as opposed to a behavioral or aesthetic authority, and sometimes aggressively assaults institutional legitimating structures. As these artists assert newly formed self-definitions, they refuse to suppress the rebellious exuberance felt in the gap between naïveté and responsibility. Much of this art references the cult of the body combined with the cult of the gang, as well as the cult of pop music, with all of its associative bonding. The work is not a critique (per se) of the existing political and art situation, but is simply a usurping of power, a violent bash when the parents are out of town, complete with booze, girls, boys, and loud music. It is aggressively nostalgic, explicating a wish for a renewable youthfulness, not for its rosy-cheeked innocence but for its harsh demanding immediacy—the thrill of that great fall from grace, the intoxicating turbulence of puberty.

Participating artists:

Nayland Blake
Robert Blanchon
Larry Clark
Jason Fox
Gregory Greene
George Horner
Mitchell Kane
Ik Joong Kang
Mike Kelley
Karen Kilimnik
Cary Liebowitz
Ken Lum

Matthew Owens
Raymond Pettibon
Richard Prince
Pruitt & Early
Zizi Raymond
Jim Shaw
Andy Soma
Lily van der Stokker
Joan Wallace
Susan Wexler
Robert Windrum
Kevin Wolff