

## **Press Release**

**Curated by Catherine Morris**

**Food**

**Gallery 400**

**Chicago, IL**

**October 26–December 3, 1998**

**Opening Reception: Wednesday, October 28, 1999, 4–7 pm**

**Curator Lecture: Wednesday, October 28, 1999, 5 pm**

*“... We were thinking about metaphoric voids, gaps, leftover spaces, places that were not developed... For example, the places where you stop to tie your shoelaces, places that are just interruptions in your daily movements. These places are also perceptually significant because they make a reference to movement space.”*

*– Gordon Matta-Clark in a discussion at The Anarchitecture Show at 112 Greene Street, NY, March 9–20, 1974.*

*In June 1971, Caroline Gooden, Gordon Matta-Clark, Tina Girouard, Suzanne Harris, and Rachel Lew started the project that was to become Food restaurant. Early that fall, Food opened its doors at the north-west corner of Wooster and Prince Streets with a meal consisting of garlic soup and bread. As a community based business, a performance site, a meeting ground, an exhibition space, and a project that helped define the early character of those blocks below Houston Street, yet to be named Soho, Food exemplifies an approach to an making practice that is unique to the spirit of the time.*

*In an interview Matta-Clark described the beginnings of the project: "One of the earliest times I can remember using cuttings as a way of redefining space was at Food restaurant, set up in the early days of Soho—long before the influx of boutiques and bars which now congest the area. We would put on shows and create food theater... This was perhaps the last time I ever used cutting, the cutting process, in a pragmatic way." The cut architectural elements extracted from Food were exhibited in October 1972 at 112 Greene Street, the important alternative space co--founded by Matta-Clark and Jeffrey Lew that, in 1980, became White Columns.*

*Food, in conjunction with 112 Greene Street and the magazine Avalanche, supported, documented, and exhibited a generation of artists whose performative, and often deliberately impermanent work was developing in the shadow of Minimalism, Pop, and the demise of formalism. A list of people working in the community included not only visual artists, but dancers, musicians, and performers. As Caroline Gooden related in an interview: "I designed menus, the recipes. Richard Peck made music while washing dishes. Barbara Dilley designed scrumptious salads during the day and danced at night. Rachel, Tina, Joanne Akalaitis, Joel Shapiro, Ned Smythe, Bob Kushner and I cooked... Mark de Suvero wanted to serve his meals through the window with a crane (that never happened) ..."*

*The exhibition will include never before seen video transfers of films made by Gordon Matta-Clark with Robert Frank, Suzanne Harris, and others, as well as a variety of printed matter and photographic documentation, including original ads from Avalanche magazine.*

*This exhibition was organized by White Columns.*