

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



## ***SENTIMENTAL EDUCATION*** **CURATED BY DAVID RIMANELLI** **JUNE 8 – JULY 29, 2000**

**ALEX BAG, PATTERSON BECKWITH, JOHN BOSKOVICH, DELIA BROWN,  
CHIVAS CLEM, JESSICA CRAIG-MARTIN, HANNAH GREELY, JONATHAN  
HAMMER, DEB LACUSTA, DARIA MARTIN, MILENA MUZQUIZ, ROB PRUITT**

This exhibition was inspired by the droll absurdity of proposing a mouldy nineteenth-century French classic, Gustave Flaubert's *Sentimental Education*, as the whimsically dictatorial premise for an absolutely contemporary exhibition. All of the artists were strongly encouraged to read the novel itself, although there was no presupposition of strictly adhering to the narrative or its themes. The vast majority of them have created original works expressly for this occasion.

Flaubert himself best renders the idea of the show in this passage from the novel:

"What can a fellow do in an age of decadence like ours? Great painting has gone out of fashion. Besides, you can introduce art into every sphere of life. You know how devoted I am to the cause of beauty! I must take you to see my factory one of these days."

Perhaps the aforementioned absurdity is more a curatorial ruse than a fact. Regardless of the distance of time and sensibility separating us from Flaubert's novel, artists and other "creative types" may find in it numerous correlatives to our current situation: the ambiguities of aesthetic and class aspiration, for one, or the endless slippage between romantic ideation and cynical capitulation. For my part, I read *Sentimental Education* as if, in some powerful and disturbing respects, it is my own narrative. I have selected artists who might indulge the perhaps uncomfortable notion that to some extent it may be theirs as well.

- David Rimanelli

**OFFICE HOURS 10 AM – 6 PM, MONDAY – SATURDAY**  
**GALLERY HOURS 12 – 6 PM, TUESDAY – SATURDAY**  
**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT SUZANNE GEISS AT 343-7300**