

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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**NARI WARD
ST. PETER'S ODYSSEY SALON
SEPTEMBER 10 – OCTOBER 16, 2004
18 WOOSTER STREET**

Nari Ward's first solo exhibition in New York in eight years opens at Deitch Projects on September 10th. *St. Peter's Odyssey Salon* is an installation that takes the form of a sensual five-stage journey. The stages of the journey are as follows:

Copulation Works – The copulation works consist of doors that have been reconfigured into absurd formal structures symbolizing sexual positions.

Airplane Tears- This work is an astonishing wall of the back panels of over 300 TV sets that conjures the overpowering presence of the media.

Glory – Glory is a large tanning bed handmade from oil barrels designed to imprint on the skin the stars and stripes of the American flag.

Reading Room –This table and stools are made with a mosaic of dried and salted codfish. On the table are mounted pages from Robert Lehman's son's commentary on the works in his father's collection. The artist reads the text in both American English and in Jamaican patois.

Drawing Room – This is a participatory installation of drawings on INS citizenship application forms.

In the wake of the artist's decision to apply for American citizenship he visually contemplates his feelings of vulnerability, melancholy, his sense of personal empowerment and his lingering reservations. Nari Ward describes his work as follows:

"I am a storyteller who enjoys conjuring works which are irreconcilable. Celebration, nostalgia, repulsion, danger, abstraction, tragedy and comedy are all performers within the vision I am creating. I build drama from the use of found and everyday objects, merging physical information (materials) with memories, thoughts, experiences and questions."

Nari Ward's work has been exhibited extensively throughout the United States and Europe including solo exhibitions at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, GAM in Torino, Italy, and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. His work has been included in Documenta XI and in the 1995 Whitney Biennial. In collaboration with Ralph Lemon, Ward won the Bessie Award for stage design in 2000. Currently the artist's work can be viewed in the exhibitions, Garvey Carts Curator's Eye at the National Gallery of Jamaica and in Monument to Now at the Deste Foundation in Greece. Ward was born in Jamaica in 1963 and lives and works in New York, NY. He is Associate Professor of Sculpture at Hunter College.

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