

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



CHRIS JOHANSON

NOW IS NOW

November 2 - December 21, 2002

Opening Saturday November 2, 6-9pm

Deitch Projects presents Now is Now, a collection of individual pieces by Chris Johanson that are actually one piece that is part of his whole piece that is one continuous document about life. Johanson explains that he likes to look at the little pictures in life as well as the big picture. A smile is just as important to him as a cosmic question about the nature of god.

Now is Now is about how money shapes peace, how we are a part of the negative force of money, how history repeats itself, how greed human/animal energy can destroy, how important religion is for some, how looking out for the needy and insecure and lonely people and animals is important, how people screw up other peoples lives, how the sun is the main reason why we exist, how the sunlight of the spirit is the main positive force in life.

Asked about the motivation behind his art, Johanson responded that "life is about looking at and being a part of life. We need to be a part of each other. If we separate we are alone. That is a world of walking dead people. That is why I make art, to talk about how important it is to stay in the now and look at life." Johanson believes that life is a series of actions and projects. That is why he makes many things in many media: painting, sculpture, installation, film,

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video, music, writing, bands. He likes to collaborate with friends and strangers.

Writing about Johanson's work, Carlo McCormick explains the artist's efforts to "locate the self within the social," and how he seeks to answer the most personal question, "How do I fit in?" He describes how Johanson "dumpster-dives through the detritus of the modern world, transforming all manner of refuse into aesthetically recycled speculations on our past, present, and future."

Johanson's painting and sculptural installation on the underground, the streets, and the sky above New York City filled the stairwell at the 2002 Whitney Biennial. He had a solo exhibition at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, in 2001. He exhibited at the Alleged Galleries in New York in 1998 and 2000. He was born in San José, California in 1968 and has lived in San Francisco for the past thirteen years.

**GALLERY HOURS 12-6, TUESDAY – SATURDAY
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
JULIA CHIANG AT 212-343-7300**