

READING THE IMAGE

Student curators hone their craft in juried exhibition

The relationship between word and image — how text changes the way we see images and how images impact our understanding of text — are issues 15 graduate students explored in mounting the exhibition "Reading the Image," which is at the Koppelman Gallery in the Aidekman Arts Center through May 21.

The juried exhibition features work in a variety of media by artists primarily from New England, including Nancy Natale's "X Marks the Spot," an artist's book with collaged monotypes on wood; Ron DiRito's "Textual Fragments," a photographic reproduction with electrically charged toner; Cheryl Comstock's "Thin as a Whipping Post," an acrylic on canvas; and Jeffrey E. Warmouth's "Red."

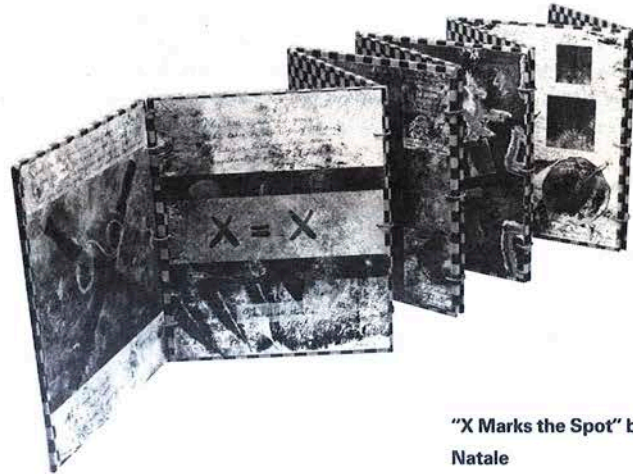
The graduate students in the seminar "Exhibition Planning for the Art Museum," taught by Joanna Soltan, acting director of the University Art Gallery, selected 19 artists from submissions sent by more than 150 artists. From there, the students tackled the many challenges of putting together an ex-

hibition — interacting with the artists, designing and mailing the invitations, developing and implementing public programming and handling publicity.

It was an important curatorial decision to allow exhibition-goers to interpret and interact with the works independently. The students decided not to use wall text or explanatory labels in the exhibition, because as text in themselves, they would conflict with the works. An accompanying brochure, incorporating quotes from individuals within and outside of the traditional art community, was created to establish a dialogue on the use of text in art.

Other artists featured in the exhibition include June Bisantz-Evans, Mark Brown, Laura Davidson, Kristine Foster, Michelle French, Cynthia Jaquith, Sharon Kaitz, Paul Laffoley, Judith Larsen, Lisa Lesniak, Ben Mahmoud, Charles McQuillen, Bonnie O'Hara, Claudia Ravaschiere and Carrie Tripp.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday until 9. The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information, call the gallery at (617) 627-3518. □

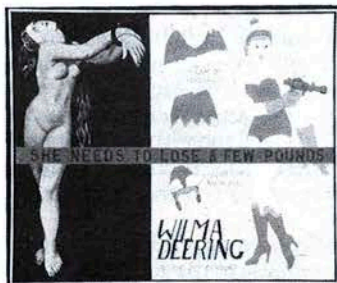


"X Marks the Spot" by Nancy Natale

Photo by Kay Canavino

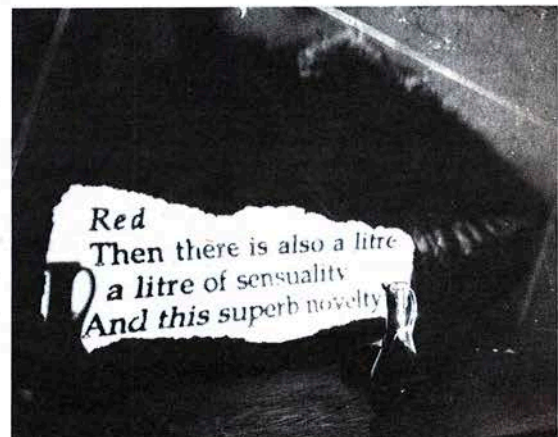


"Textual Fragments" by Ron DiRito



"Thin as a Whipping Post" by Cheryl Comstock

Photo by William Wickett



"Red" by Jeffrey E. Warmouth