

HENRY URBACH ARCHITECTURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GALLERY ONE: **CONDITION**
AN TE LIU

GALLERY TWO: **STARBONG**
JOHN DEFazio

SEPTEMBER 11 - OCTOBER 20, 2000

Henry Urbach Architecture is pleased to announce two solo exhibitions, **Condition** by An Te Liu and **Starbong** by John deFazio. Each of these shows considers in its own way the relationship among fantasy, iconography, and the aesthetics of everyday objects.

Condition, Liu's first American solo show, critically and playfully examines how contemporary notions of hygiene and fitness shape our domestic environment. Dividing the gallery into two chambers, Liu will present *Exchange*, an installation composed of 56 high-efficiency particulate air purifiers. The white, cylindrical units are stacked to form 7 columns, and this forest has been plugged in to purify gallery air at an extremely accelerated rate. In the second chamber, Liu will present his *Type/Need* sculptures. These oddly indeterminate objects, covered in fleshy silicon rubber, join design features culled from orthopaedic devices, exercise equipment, and rehabilitation aids to suggest a kind of wellness run amok.

An Te Liu was born in Taiwan in 1967 and currently teaches at the University of Toronto. His installation *Pathology* was exhibited last year at the Contemporary Art Gallery in Vancouver.

For **Starbong**, deFazio will present an ensemble of sculptures and works on paper that bring together the Kama Sutra, popular culture, psychedelia and astrology. Set atop a mirrored plinth are 12 ceramic bong; each is keyed to a particular zodiac sign, character type, and cultural icon: the *Papal Piece Pipe*, the *KFC Scorpio Bong*, and the *Madonna Boy Toy Bong* among them. Hanging overhead is a large painted mural that offers up a firmament of astrological figures for our time: Princess Diana, Elvis, and Michael Jackson hover as Cancer, Capricorn and Virgo. On the surrounding walls deFazio presents 12, rather wicked watercolor *Starmaps*, as well as his Vegas-Baroque *Alien Showgirl* sculptures.

John deFazio is a New York artist whose work has been exhibited internationally, including recent exhibitions at the American Crafts Museum, the Contemporary Art Center in New Orleans, and the World Ceramics Exposition in Korea. His residencies include the Banff Art Center and the Kohler Art and Industry Program, where he made his now famous *Santa Urinal*. DeFazio's recent book *Stardumb* was published in collaboration with Dave Hickey by ArtSpace Books. His work is held in many private, corporate, and institutional collections, including: MTV, the Honolulu Art Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.

For further information and images, please contact Henry Urbach or Jonathan Allen, (212) 627-0974.