

ART

UNITED ARTISTS

A sprawling exhibit of New York's most vital new talent may well be a blueprint for the art world's future.

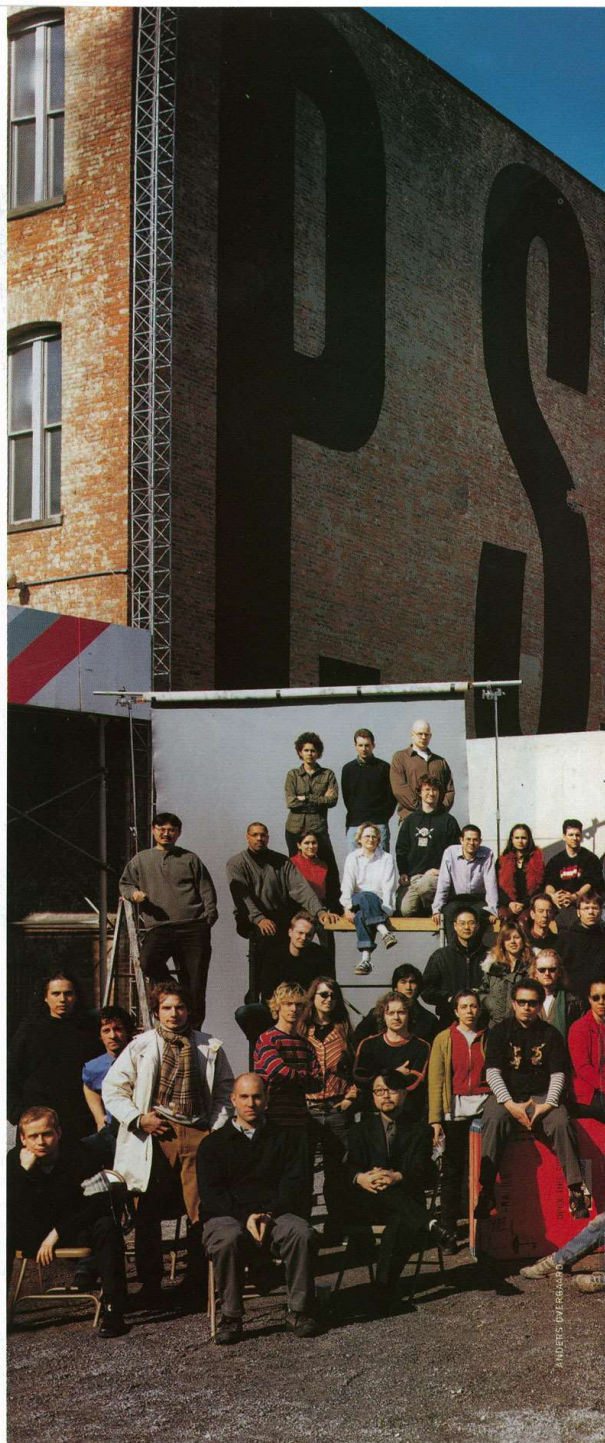
The marriage of New York City's edgy P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center and the Museum of Modern Art recently produced its firstborn, which entered the art world kicking and screaming. The rowdy, attention-getting *Greater New York* exhibition, at P.S. 1 through May 16, is a showcase of more than 140 local artists who have emerged as significant voices within the past five years. Think Whitney Biennial, but bigger, a little rough around the edges, and defiantly New York-centric.

The brainchild of P.S. 1 director Alanna Heiss and MoMA director Glenn Lowry, *Greater New York* was assembled in just a few months by curatorial teams from both institutions who combed through 2000 artists' slides. "It was a very romantic idea," says Heiss of the open call for work. "We wanted to send the strongest signal that we were looking at art being made right now and that *anybody* could be considered." The only criteria were that the artists had to be from the New York area and not have had a solo exhibition before 1995.

The result is a show that encompasses talent ranging from the relatively well known (painter Cecily Brown, video artist Shirin Neshat) to the relatively unknown (installation artist Do-Ho Suh, painter and performance artist Cynthia Underwood). Almost 40 percent of the artists are women, and a good third are foreign-born, underscoring the changing demographic of the New York art scene. Says Underwood, whose contribution involved reciting a "word sculpture"

while painting a beat-up Saab, "This show is perfect for me as I love performing in this experimental environment. At P.S. 1 there is definitely raw adrenaline." —Catherine Hong

PAINTING THE TOWN
One week before the opening, 104 of the show's 146 artists assembled in the courtyard of P.S. 1 in Long Island City, NY, for a group photo.





Dylan Jonas Stone