

**MARTINEZ GALLERY**

hours: **SATURDAYS 12 PM to 4 PM**

# **SCHOOL ZONE**

press release

dates: **dec 3 - jan 28**

New York - Martinez Gallery is pleased to present **SCHOOL ZONE**, a reconsideration of the roles played by art and educational institutions, and of longstanding assumptions about the ways the two interact.

**SCHOOL ZONE** is an intervention into a New York City public high school classroom, an open process in which artists are given leeway to bring their own ideas and concepts into a space normally reserved only for traditional accoutrements and systems of organization.

Like previous projects organized by Martinez Gallery, this intervention will be undertaken by graffiti artists, and as such aims to challenge even further the seemingly sacred character ascribed to art and to education, which normally only meet in the most academic realms of each field.

**SCHOOL ZONE** is not, however, a case of simply opening the chalkboard to graffiti, that is to say underground or taboo art, nor is it glorified decoration; rather, it is an opportunity to artists, students and teachers alike to question the underlying exclusions implicit in being both a graffiti artists and, frankly, an urban public school student.

This project, then, comes with its own coursework, an subjects like the food chain, the corporation, artist's black books, history of gangs, history of ethnic groups, and modern television will be incorporated into the curriculum. These themes, as well as others that may evolve in situ, intend to extend beyond the normal intellectual fare of the classroom, allowing students to identify themselves in what they are learning.

In sum, the idea is to redesign not only the modern classroom, but also the idea of a school as a whole, exploring the real and logical possibilities for change in the relationship between education and art.

If school is the place, the institution, granted the vital responsibility of first introducing art into the consciousness and social discourse of the public mind, then **SCHOOL ZONE** puts that introduction under examination.

Hours: **Saturdays 12 - 4 PM / Mondays- Fridays by appointment**

Gallery Address: **Urban Academy [Julia Richmond High School]**

**317 East 67th Street, Room 222, NYC 10021**

For more information: **212-619-2149**

next page: **ARTISTS & STAFF' Bios**  
or: [www.martinezgalleries.com/School\\_Zone/Bios/](http://www.martinezgalleries.com/School_Zone/Bios/)