

Gallery 400 (M/C 033)
School of Art and Design
College of Architecture and the Arts
400 South Peoria Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7034
(312) 996-6114

PRESS RELEASE
IN AND OUT

Exhibition Dates: February 19 - March 23, 1996

Gallery Hours: Monday - Friday 9-5; Saturday 12-4

For further information call: 312-996-6114

In and Out is a collaborative project between Rikrit Tiravanija, The Resource Center, and the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Art and Design. This is not an exhibition of finished work in the usual sense, but rather a cycle of ongoing activity in which the gallery functions as a locus of exchange for an unpredictable variety and quantity of materials. On opening night, the gallery will contain only empty bins. Throughout the project, a simultaneous process of filling and emptying the bins will be carried out by the community, who are invited to both contribute materials of any type and also to remove any materials which can be made useful.

The project transforms the idea of "viewer" into participant by inviting members of the community (not solely the art community or University community) to bring objects and materials of any sort to the gallery to deposit in the bins. In this way, discarded, forgotten or formerly "useless" things are brought out of hiding and into the gallery. Placing objects in the bins constitutes an invitation to subsequent viewers to take the objects if they wish. The project's creators feel that there is an important and simple message in the act of transformation that occurs when useless surplus can be made to fill a need for another person in another place. With active participation by the audience, the gallery becomes a model of engagement in a cycle of (re)distribution, (re)production, and (re)consumption.

The physical objective is to create a cycle: the gallery starts out empty, and returns to this state at the end of the project. The conceptual objective is to stimulate a current of exchange and interaction between an art community and the larger community in which it exists.

* The Resource Center is a not-for-profit environmental educational organization which has been recycling in Chicago for over 20 years. The Resource Center's main location is 222 East 135th Place, Chicago, Il. 60627 312-821-1351.