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Contact: Susan Hoeltzel  
718-960-8731

**@Vesu.Vius, a new work on Italian American identity,  
premieres as part of the Bronx Celebrates Series at Lehman**

*Peter d'Agostino:*  
*Interactivity and Intervention, 1978-1999*  
Robert Atkins, Guest Curator

March 16 - May 15, 1999

Talk: Friday, April 16 at 12:00 pm. *Media and Conceptual Art from Duchamp to d'Agostino* by guest curator Robert Atkins  
In cooperation with The City and the Humanities Program  
Carman Hall - B04

*Peter d'Agostino: Interactivity and Intervention, 1978-1999*, organized by guest curator Robert Atkins, provides a survey of d'Agostino's work, highlighting five seminal installations created over the past twenty-one years. This exhibition is part of the gallery's on-going *Bronx Celebrates* series featuring the work of artists with Bronx roots. It is also offered as part of the gallery's ongoing presentation of artists whose work incorporates new technologies. This exhibition has been made possible with a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts. Technical and equipment support has been provided by Pioneer New Media Technologies, Inc. and MicroTouch Systems, Inc.

The exhibition will feature the premiere of @Vesu.Vius, a new video installation and web site. The title refers to Mount Vesuvius and its surroundings, including a village near Naples where the artist's parents were born. This work explores many of the paradoxes and metaphors of cultural identity, juxtaposing the iconic images of Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii with places in an Italian American community in The Bronx. The web site includes a range of issues—from commentaries by émigrés and their descendants; and, some key texts of the Neapolitan philosophers Bruno, Vico, and Croce—to discussions of how "virtual communities" are now being defined on the Internet. Referencing a range of sources from video games to mass media—the Internet, television and video—d'Agostino's installations are richly layered and both utilize and critique those electronic means we have become so dependent upon to know the world. @Vesu.Vius an examination of identity which is at once global and personal. The Web address is: [www.temple.edu/newtechlab/Vesu.Vius](http://www.temple.edu/newtechlab/Vesu.Vius).

The other installations documented in the exhibition are: *Proposal for QUBE* first presented in 1978 as a response to the first commercial deployment of an interactive TV; *TransmissionS: In the WELL* (1985-90), an interactive videodisc, offers a metaphorical apparatus of vision and telecommunications; *TRACES* (1991-95), a video, print and web site installation concerning the 50th anniversary of the Atomic Age; and *VR/RV: a Recreational Vehicle in Virtual Reality* (1993-94), an interactive virtual environment presented here as a video projection.

Peter d'Agostino is a pioneer of video and interactive multimedia installations. Over the past three decades, d'Agostino's work has been exhibited internationally in the form of installations, performances, telecommunications events, and broadcast productions. His exhibitions include the Whitney Biennial, Bienal de Sao Paulo, Biennial of the Moving Image, Madrid, Construction in Process, Lodz, Poland, and *InfoArt*, Kwangju Biennial, Korea, 1995. D'Agostino's work is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art's circulating video library, and is distributed by Electronic Arts Intermix, New York.

D'Agostino is currently professor of film and media arts, and director of the NewTechLab at Temple University, Philadelphia. He has received honorary awards for his interactive art at Prix Ars Electronica, Linz, Austria (1990 and 1995), as well as fellowships from: Fulbright (Brazil, 1996), the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pew Trusts, the Japan Foundation, and the Center for Advanced Visual Studies, MIT. He has been a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome, and an artist-in-residence at the Television Laboratory, WNET, New York, the Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada, and the Bellagio Center, Italy.

Guest curator, Robert Atkins is a former columnist for the *Village Voice*, and is the author of the best-selling *ArtSpeak: A Guide to Contemporary Ideas, Movements, and Buzzwords* and its modern art companion, *ArtSpoke*. He is the founding editor of *TalkBack! A Forum for Critical Discourse* (<http://talkback.lehman.cuny.edu/tb>), the first American online journal about online art. Atkins has received an NEA and many other awards for art criticism and has organized more than 20 exhibitions including "Between Science and Fiction" (1985, Bienal de Sao Paulo) and "From Media to Metaphor: Art About AIDS" (1991-94), the first major traveling exhibition of its kind.

*Media and Conceptual Art from Duchamp to d'Agostino*, a talk by guest curator Robert Atkins, will be presented in collaboration the Cities and the Humanities Program on Friday, April 16 at 12:00 pm in Carman Hall B04 - Lehman College.

A special program, *Two Volcanos: Italian American Dialogues with Peter d'Agostino and Anthony Fragola*, will be presented on Monday, March 29 at 6 pm in cooperation with New York University's Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at 24 West 12th Street, New York, New York. Anthony Fragola is program coordinator and associate professor of Broadcasting and Cinema at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. For more information, please call (212)998-8730.

Lehman College Art Gallery has pioneered support for new media and digital artists which has resulted in the creation of major milestones in the history of this field: the first online artwork acquired by a museum and the first American journal about online art. The gallery's technology programs have been written about in *The New York Times*, *Art in America*, *ArtNews*, the *Village Voice*, *Newsweek's* Cyberscope, and *New York Magazine* and have been recognized by a Bell Atlantic Excellence in Education Award, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs/Cultural Challenge Program, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Henry Luce Foundation, the New York Community Trust, AT&T, and the Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation.

Lehman College Art Gallery is located on Bedford Park Boulevard West and Goulden Avenue in the Northwest Bronx. The campus is one-half block from the #4 train. The Gallery is open Tuesday - Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, please call (718) 960-8731.