

**BE-COMING**

**by Papo Colo, 1992**

The profoundness of Willie Birch's work is the way it is stored.  
Memory crossing, overlapping dialogues of African-American accents.  
Landscaping the tranquil flash,  
movement of fragmented stories  
and the way this story becomes a surface  
which the artist witnessed or saw or thought  
all this is accumulated in his objects which have a lot of subjects.  
The idea of crowds becomes manual labor  
like a barber of ideas or a construction master of remembering.  
A conceptual artist of folkloric motivations, Birch is a premeditated storyteller.  
His dimensionality resides  
in public events, gatherings, and dates of events in the urban habitat.  
Social commentaries are his esthetic motivation  
and his politics are his visions as a chronicler.

Raw strokes in the surface become commentaries of survival and struggle.  
Innocence becomes a poignant sign on the structural design of his drawings.  
Paper becomes permanent space in his sculpture.  
Light becomes very heavy  
when his population is transforming  
and becoming  
in every move of his incessant, turbulent strokes of his drawing  
is an illuminated state of being.  
Birch's population recapture their place in history  
when the paper in his sculptures, becomes physical, solid space  
and innocence and aggressiveness coexist in the web of his vision.

His choice is the urban story of a race - his race - that neglected,  
is rebuilding new ways of repossessing their autonomy and their authority  
in the urban structure.  
Rebuilding history from scratch.

Returning. Revolving. Reinstalling. Remembering, of  
Crowds following crowds.  
Specific pigmented groups with a sensibility of popular information  
and a direct language of meanings.  
Tools like drawing and sculpture are Birch's modus operandi;  
repossessing his right to art historical importance through the power of his virtues,  
the vocabulary of his tools and the determination of his historical commitment.

**Text for the exhibition at Exit Art NY**

**WILLIE BIRCH: A PERSONAL VIEW OF URBAN AMERICA**

**3/28/1992 - 4/25/1992**