

June 27, 1997  
ART IN REVIEW

## Art in Review

By HOLLAND COTTER

'Home Is Where the Heart Is: Our Family Values'

White Columns

154 Christopher Street

West Village

Through July 12

This show has been organized by Cassandra Langer, an art historian who is also vice president of United for the Freedom to Marry, an advocacy group for the legalizing of gay and lesbian marriages, and it has, as they say, an agenda. But it's a worthy one, and if the overall quality of the 40-plus artists on view is bumpy, there are bright spots.

Among them is Joe De Hoyos's little collage titled "A Mother's Secrets," a look at the feminine mystique from a gay male perspective; a no-nonsense installation about the end of a relationship by Harmony Hammond; Peter Harvey's painting of a dying man's face over a collage of AIDS obituaries, and Steed Taylor's photo from his own childhood with his figure blacked out.

But what one might call the nuclear family pieces are the most moving. Tomas Rodriguez Gaspar's photograph titled "A New Home" comes from his book documenting the life and death of an HIV-positive child adopted by a gay male couple. (The book is in the show and well worth spending time with.) And a lovely installation by Cheri Gaulke and Sue Maberry titled "Families Next Door" juxtaposes black-and-white stills of families from 1950's and 60's television shows with recent real-life color Sears portraits of same-sex couples with their children. Everyone in the color portraits looks thrilled to be together and right where they are. Once again an image speaks louder than words. HOLLAND COTTER