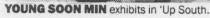
THE ARTS CON JITY By JOAN SHEPARD







AMALIA MESA-BAINS at Intar Gallery.

Art out of life - from the altar to rehab center

There are many artists who work within local communities and create strong personal, social and politi-cally oriented art statements.

Amalia Mesa-Bains, a San Francisco-based artist, has constructed a three-altar installation, "Grotto of Virgins," at the Intar Gallery, 420 W. 42d St. The work is inspired by three Hispanic women as well as the religious esthetic of altars. The altars are dedicated to Delores del Rio; to Frida Kahlo, the wife of Diego Rivera, and to the artist's grandmother.

"Cultural memory is the basis of community," said the Mexican-American art-

ist. "This is very important in a high-tech world. I lived with altars, but this work goes beyond the personal altar.

Mesa-Bains said that for many Hispanics, the Catholic Church is the first esthetic experience and remains with the people.

'It's there-the altars, statues, pageants—and art school can't take it away," she said.

Mesa-Bains' meticulously constructed altars in three distinct styles will be on exhibit until Dec. 30.

The artist said that it is important for Americans to learn about Hispanic cul-

"We are no longer mar-

ginal people in this socisaid the artist.

• Six community organizations, The Center for Law and Justice, The Jewish Community Relations Coun-cil, New York State Tenant and Neighborhood Coalition, the Coalition Against Anti-Asian Violence, the Committee for a Multi-Lingual New York and The Greens, have sponsored the exhibit "Up South" at BACA Downtown, 111 Willoughby St. in Downtown Brooklyn, which runs until Dec.

Gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m...
The title "Up South" was chosen to remind us that racism and discrimination are not limited to any portion of the country or period of history, according to curator Bill Batson.

The artists are Mierle Ukeles, Ed Morales, Young Soon Min, Cliff Joseph, Tom Finkelpearl and Mary Beth Edeleson.

On W. 128th St. near Lennox Ave., there is a mural created by Noa Bernstein in the Operation Greenthumb program, depicting aspects of black life.

The artist was chosen by the community organization, the Harlem Rehabilitation Center. To create the mural, Bernstein sketched the staff and the clients of the center and local residents.



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