

THE ARTS COMMUNITY By JOAN SHEPARD



YOUNG SOON MIN exhibits in 'Up South.'



AMALIA MESA-BAINS at Intar Gallery. GENE KAPPOCK DAILY NEWS

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 politically 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 Dolores 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 culture.

"We are no longer mar-

ginal people in this society," said the artist.

Six community organizations, The Center for Law and Justice, The Jewish Community Relations Council, 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. 19. 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 por-

tion 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 Finkelppearl** 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.



NOA BERNSTEIN in front of her mural at the unveiling ceremony.

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