

February 13, 1993

Arthur Gonzales
3038 Texas Street
Oakland, California 94602

Dear Arthur:

Thank you for submitting your slides for our review. We appreciate the opportunity you have given us to see your work.

However, due to current gallery commitments, we are unable to offer you representation or inclusion in our current exhibition schedule.

We wish you success with your work.

Sincerely,

C. Kahn
Carrie Kahn
Assistant Director

encl.

A. Gonzales 2001

Nia work - these sculptural "narratives" are intriguing - If your work is exhibited in NY in the near future please forward an announcement card - Thanks.

The Art of Rejection

by

Arthur Gonzalez

John Natsoulas Press

\$20



Arthuz Gonzalez

by Judith S. Schwartz

There are few people willing to admit to personal rejection. How humiliating, how embarrassing to want something and be told that others can have it, but not you! The feeling of rejection might be a topic shared with a trusted friend or loved one, or if the self-esteem issues gnaw too much at one's psyche – perhaps relief on the psychiatrist's couch would be in order. Certainly one would not dream of announcing the particulars of who, when, and where on the walls of a gallery for the entire world to see!

Yet this is precisely what the artist, Arthur Gonzalez chooses to do to deal with in his exhibition "Sour Grapes". Of course, dealing with issues is what artists do, and each one finds and defines that mission in their own way.

Nurtured on west coast funk legacies and specifically the influences of his teacher, the confrontational artist, Robert Arneson, Gonzalez learned early on that no subject was taboo. Innermost feelings, guilt, embarrassments, worries, and concerns exist to be exploited. Gonzalez makes use of the satirist ploy to take the most embarrassing moment or bitter pill more palatable by weaving humor, caricature, obscenity, and the grotesque into his art.

What most would have taken as a stumbling block, Gonzalez uses his accumulation of 25 years of rejection letters as a stepping stone - to enliven our spirit and remind us that most of what we see, hear, and read is often sanctimonious, perfunctory, and certainly not a measure of who we are and can become. The distillate of his effort shows us that life is unreasonable and not particularly noble, but in spite of this, it is what we make of life's vicissitudes that matters the most.

Judith S. Schwartz, Ph. D.
New York, NY