

## Project Gallery

Elaine Reichek

*When This You See...*

**February 2 – March 27, 1999**

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The Project Gallery presents a new video, and video stills by **Elaine Reichek**, both from a larger body of work entitled, *When This You See...* This is the first use of video for Reichek, who has become known for the past fifteen years for installations, adaptations of found photographs, and art in the media of knitting, sewing, and embroidery. Defiantly working with a traditionally 'leisurely' activity not readily acceptable to the domain of 'high art', she has confronted issues of subjugation in feminism and racism, as well as the complexities of identity politics with wit and self-reflection. *When This You See...* investigates a specific history of knitting, sewing and weaving and how these activities have been perceived over time. The video piece shown here is a series of clips compiled from a wide-range of films, dating from the 1920s to the 1990s. In each clip, a woman playing a pivotal role in the film, appears sewing; her motives are revealed by one-word text interventions superimposed by Reichek. As with her samplers, where art historical and literary sources are appropriated into the work, an alternate history for the practices of both embroidery and art is unveiled.

Reichek's exhibition history has seen her work included in a preponderance of shows based mainly on the content or concept of the work, rather than its craft. She recently participated in the exhibition, *Loose Threads*, at the Serpentine Gallery in London. *A Postcolonial Kinderhood* her one-person show at the Jewish Museum in 1994, also appeared in part in the seminal exhibition, *Too Jewish* at the same institution in 1997.

For further information, please contact the gallery at 212. 243.3335.

*On wall:* Video stills  
4 ¾" x 108," 1999

*Project Space:*  
Video, 20 min., 1999