

An Interview

Continued

demeaning to all the participants. Why can't we have access to art just like the rest of the boys? Or ladies, sorry.

Anthony: And those who address those issues?

Blanchon: I'm not going to wait around and hope art can change those elements in my life.

Blanchon (cont.): I've made them (these changes) myself and they are more powerful for me to be political in other venues. It's like something we spoke of in crits last week: you need to choose material that is good for the art and not what is expected of you. I'm not going to make art about being gay. I make art for what I think I need to do for good work. And the material choice is kind of like content choice. They are almost like cruel limitations we place on one another. It's like here at UNC, Chapel Hill, Art Dept., we have one discussion of race and identity politics during the one crit of a person who is not white. It's also interesting that the only other person we conversed about identity politics stuff with was you. It's almost like we enjoyed the access point or the privilege of discussing lesbianism because of who you are. But I think if you were interested in lesbian visibility in the artworld - do you want to make work

that convinces people there's an under-representation of lesbians or do you want to make work about the concept of invisibility altogether for you? It's not that being a dyke makes you interesting - it's that being a dyke is part of you being interesting.

Anthony: But who decides what's interesting?

Blanchon: We all do, as we're all artists. There was an article in the Village Voice in 1994/5 called "Lesbian and Gay What-ziz" - like "whatever" - by Robert Atkins. I had had a show in NY at White Columns, and along with other gay artists, was interviewed over the phone. One discussion that comes to mind was in reference to a show that was traveling to South American and what was then Eastern Europe, and this show was organized by, well, let's just say a famous gay guy in NY. I refused to be in the show because the show really was about being a gay guy, and I don't want to be a gay guy in my work. So anyway, this guy organized this gay guy show. It seems like an obvious obliteration or mistake that I'm not in it. When I'm asked about it, here's my response - it's really kind of simple: I wouldn't be in a show called, "Faggots", but I would be in a show called "Faggotry". One is the idea, the contemplation, the nuance, the experience -the meaning of the other. The other is just it as it is, and it's not what I do as an artist. I don't want to be responsible for fags, just as I don't want to be responsible for straight people - get what you can and run.