

# Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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PRESS RELEASE

## CHRIS BURDEN

### *DOWNTOWN*

351 West Broadway, New York  
ground floor near northeast corner of Broome Street

Opens February 16

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 11:30-5:30

Chris Burden will exhibit a large new sculpture, The Big Wheel, 15 Devil Drawings and 10 small sculptures, in the gallery's temporary downtown location at 351 West Broadway from February 16 through March 15.

The Big Wheel, a cast iron fly wheel, 8-feet in diameter and weighing 6,000 pounds, spins continuously during the exhibition. Its axle is positioned upright on a friction-free bearing system supported by a tressel of 6" x 6" timbers. Every two hours, the rear wheel of a 250 cc Benelli motorcycle is pushed against the flywheel and the motorcycle is driven through its gears without any forward movement. As the bike accelerates, reaching speeds of up to 60 to 70 mph, it turns the flywheel to a maximum speed of up to 200 rpms. Big Wheel continues to spin for up to 3 hours after the bike's engine is turned off.

On the one hand, the raw energy of the rotating flywheel suggests a risk and danger (what if the flywheel were to break loose) which Burden believes to be part of man's distorted disposition toward violence. On the other, Big Wheel evokes a hypnotic quality that comes from the repetitive spinning motion which can act to free the viewer from customary association with the flywheel's use and cause a meditative experience to take place.

Burden will show 15 Devil Drawings relating to themes that are personal to Burden's life. They are collaged with found objects, newspaper clippings, photographs and mementos.

The 10 small sculptures portray a range of weaponry related to the war and survival mentality of present political systems. Among those included are: Case of Street Weapons, Survival Kit, Spy Kit, 16<sup>th</sup> Century Gunpowder, Space port with Space Ships, and Airplane and Barbed Wire.