

CIRCA' 18



PERFORMANCES
Irish Exhibition of Living Art
Project Arts Centre, Dublin
20-21 July 1984

artists
such as Stewart or MacLennan who deal
with natural and functional materials and
develop for these a symbolic purpose.

Both these performances directly
presented the actual material, if not their
ideas, as opposed to the simulated or
media juxtapositions in some of the other
works.

A complaint that can be levelled at art
engaged in media re-presentation of
images of women, nature, etc., in an
artificial light is that rather than
commenting or intervening, the art is
subsumed into the same condition. The
two performances by Nick Stewart and
Alistair MacLennan, by contrast, were not
concerned with the pleasure of the
seductive image but in confronting the
viewer with the opposite. Crucially, both
these artists are not involved with a brutal
situation, the elements they use are part
of everyday life, but their modes have
ulterior motives which are to reflect back
on the symbolic functions of the material
they use.

Joan Fowler

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Nick Stewart—*Ritual For An Urban Environment* is a theme often explored by this performer. Punishing input (screening, jarring sounds, looming shadows) created an intense atmosphere I wanted to escape. So effective that it was a relief when it ended.