

# NEWS RELEASE

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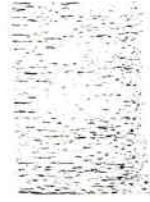
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### NUCLEAR SCULPTURE EXHIBIT OPENS AT NAKHAMKIN GALLERY

#### Sculptor Tony Price Turns Atomic Bomb Parts Into Kinetic Art

An exhibit of Thomas (Tony) A. Price's nuclear sculpture, entirely constructed from atomic bomb scrap materials discarded by the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, is now open at the Nakhamkin Gallery of Fine Arts. The gallery is located at 599 Broadway (at Houston Street), 11th Floor, and is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10:30 to 5:30 or by appointment. The exhibit will be on display through January 15, 1984, and features the artist's major six-piece sculpture entitled "The Last S.A.L.T. Talks" as well as many of his smaller nuclear works.

"The Last S.A.L.T. Talks," five years in the making and Tony Price's ultimate achievement to date, depicts a space-age summit meeting of the mechanical survivors of a nuclear holocaust convening to discuss the future of the planet. The piece, which Price calls "A Trophy for the Winners of the Next Nuclear War," portrays two "superpowers," an angelic "umpire" with forked tongue, and two neutral "monitors," all surrounding a nuclear monolith.



Tony Price's other nuclear sculptures currently on display at the Nakhamkin Gallery include his "Kachina" masks, which merge the imagery of Native American tradition with the contemporary components of nuclear weaponry, the "Dorje Atomic Floor Gong," a free-standing gong that can be played by the viewer, and the "Nuclear Mandala Lamp," with a hydrogen bomb core at its center. Price's assemblages tend to take on a broad range of configurations, from domestic items and furniture to musical instruments and outdoor sculpture.

Tony Price began working with atomic scrapmetal more than fifteen years ago when he happened to discover the Zia Scrapyard in Los Alamos. Since that time, he has made weekly trips from his home in New Mexico to the scrapyard, where he finds exotic materials and precisely-crafted nuclear weapons components. Price transforms these nuclear remnants into various sculptural configurations that integrate form, sound and movement with political messages.

Price views his trips to the scrapyard as "an act of catharsis, an attempt to exorcise the devil [nuclear weapons] we are all living with." Intrigued with the concept of turning a death-oriented technology into a life-affirming art form, Price comments "It's taking

these materials that were built for extremely destructive purposes and building things that are a lot more peaceful...It's a little bit like sympathetic magic, how you would take an object and endow it with another type of creative energy than the purpose it was originally meant for...to take something that was really negative and turn it into something positive."

Tony Price's work has found its way into museums and private collections in New York, New Mexico, Rome, Paris, Holland, Germany and Spain, and has received widespread acclaim in publications including New York Magazine, the New York Times, the Village Voice, and fine arts publications across the country. He is also the subject of a half-hour documentary called "The Atomic Artist." Produced by Academy Award nominee Glenn Silber and Claudia Vianello, the film has been shown at the London International Film Festival and at festivals around the United States.

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