

Weekend **FINE ARTS LEISURE**

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Inside Art

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A Scary Show

In a building in the East Village, a group of 20 artists will show works that have something spooky about them. Creative Time, a nonprofit organization that presents art around the city, promises that everything in "Strange Powers," as the show is called, was made to have a "paranormal effect," using spells, talismanic objects and apparitions.

The exhibition, which opens at 64 East Fourth Street on Wednesday and runs through Sept. 17, was organized by Laura Hoptman, a senior curator at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, and Peter Eleey, Creative Time's curator. "It's different from other exhibitions which have shown the art of the occult," Ms. Hoptman said. "This is about art as a

transformative object."

Some workers in the building, which houses nonprofit theaters and rehearsal spaces, believe the place is haunted, and several of them said they had seen ghosts, Ms. Hoptman said.

Among the works are a crystal ball by Eva Rothschild and a sculpture of a spoon that is said to have been bent by a poltergeist, the work of Paul Pfeiffer. There is also an empty black room with absolutely no light, a re-creation of a room that the mystic artist James Lee Byars made to house his own ghost.

The artist Douglas Gordon's contribution to the show is a letter he wrote to the curators asking them to "Do Something Evil."

"Our response was to get a tube of black paint cursed by a sorcerer," Ms. Hoptman said. "We then painted an 8½-by-11-inch rectangle on the wall of the show, the same size as the piece of paper the letter was written on, to house the curse because we didn't want it out in the world."

Some works have even spooked the curators. The Conceptual artist Jonathan Monk recreated a work in which he mailed six letters to the last address of the artist Alighiero Boetti, who died in 1994. Only one came back.