



Essex Street 114 Eldridge St
between Broome and Grand St
(917-263-1001, essexstreet.biz).
Subway: B, D to Grand St. Thu–Sun
noon–6pm.

* **“The Contract”** When art sells at auction, the artist usually doesn’t get a cut from the proceeds, which, more often than not, are far higher than the work’s original value. This is a fairly common practice, whereby collectors and auction houses maximize their returns while artists get way less. But in the 1970s, an attempt was made at redress, with the creation of a contract that insured artists royalties on future sales of their work. Only a few have availed themselves of this protection, however, and auction houses have hardly encouraged its use, for obvious reasons. This is the main premise of “The Contract,” a formally coherent group show comprising eight artists whose pieces are being offered for purchase with just such a contingency. Through Jan 11.