

## A Visit to Colette's Maison de la Lumiere:

Members of The Contemporary Arts Council are invited to visit Colette's studio, 213 Pearl Street in Lower Manhattan and salon on Wednesday April 11, at 5:30 to 7 pm. Space is limited. This visit is not advised for those who have trouble climbing several flights of stairs. There is no elevator in the building.

For the artist Colette life itself is a performance. A visionary presence on the new York and European art scene for over 30 years, Colette is known for her legendary fabric installations; a variety of deluxe tableaux into which she lyrically inserts herself recast as specific persona. In the 1970s she appeared at the Mudd Club and in the windows of Fiorucci, the legendary 59<sup>th</sup> Street boutique, where Madonna saw her cocooned in silks and satins, sleeping in her lace undergarments. The fledgling superstar rapidly appropriated Colette's style.

Colette, whom many consider a vanguard feminist artist, has consistently investigated clichés about femininity, integrating art and life via her surroundings, even her wardrobe, sabotaging traditional museum formats in the process. One of the artists to first integrate multi-media, her work incorporates video, portraiture, photography, and collage, theatre, as well as fashion and interior design, making art out of her succession of homes.

Since the 1970's, her ability to reinvent her artistic persona has been unflagging. She died as Colette only to resurrect herself as Justine, then as Olympia and now, post 9-11, as Lumière.

After 9-11, her studio on Pearl Street was covered with dust from the World Trade Center disaster and now the building itself is in peril of being demolished. This visit to which Council members are invited may be one of the last opportunities to see Colette's inimitable, satin-swathed Pearl Street salon, as she addresses the all too pertinent issues of impermanence and uncertainty.

Council members are also invited to visit Colette's exhibition at the ApARTment at HPGRP Gallery, 32-36 Little West 12<sup>th</sup> Street on April 14<sup>th</sup> between 1 pm and 3 pm, when the artist will be there to receive them. That exhibition opens on April 4 and runs through May 12., 2007.