ART IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE: SINGULAR WORKS, PLURAL POSSIBILITIES

SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION
FRIDAY, APRIL 25th, 2008
University of Massachusetts Amherst
The University Gallery at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, invites you to attend Art in the Public Sphere: Singular Works, Plural Possibilities, a daylong symposium that examines the complexities and challenges of producing work in and about the public domain. In conjunction with this event, the University Gallery will present a juried exhibition of proposed public art projects that address issues of temporality, community, place, and practice on local, national, and global levels, which will highlight recent trends and new ideas in the field of public art. While the term “public art” tends to suggest the timeless and immutable – the very “stuff” of traditional monuments – today’s public art often provides a dynamic commentary on change and indeterminacy that is a part of our daily lives. As public life becomes dominated by increasingly fragmented identities and restless societal differences, the University Gallery’s symposium will consider how the operative criteria for actualizing work in the public domain can be culturally resonant, ecologically sound, imaginatively stimulating, perceptually engaging, and politically effective. From Christo’s “Gates” in Central Park to “Isle of View” by George Trakas on the UMass Campus Pond, art has an increasingly important role to play in daily life and in shaping society. As the public art field undergoes the beginning of a renaissance, we recognize this to be a pivotal moment to pose these questions and open up the discussion.

**Exhibition: Art in the Public Sphere:**
Singular Works, Plural Possibilities
April 25-May 24, 2008
University Gallery
Opening Reception: April 25, 5-7:00 pm

**Symposium: Art in the Public Sphere:**
Singular Works, Plural Possibilities
Friday, April 25, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
Student Union Ballroom

**Topics**

**Temporalität**—Permanent structures typically signify a participatory process and sustained commitment to a group, community, region, etc. Yet, recently artists have embraced time-sensitivity as an organizing principle towards similar ends. What are the respective opportunities and limitations of producing ephemeral versus permanent works?

**Community**—If there exists no unified or discrete community, the notion of “community” necessarily remains a powerful motivating force in many works in the public domain. What are the strategies and approaches that critically address the presumptions and expectations of community-based / public art projects, particularly those that deal with inequities?

**Place**—The concept of place is always bound up with relations of power and invested with competing memories. However, artists and public projects are often encouraged to stabilize, restore, or shore up a sense of place. How do artists critically invoke cultural memory and how have the attributes of “place” been reconfigured in art today?

**Practice**—How have interactive and/or collaborative processes across disciplines influenced art in the public realm? In what ways have these new methods of practice transformed previously overlooked spaces into visible places, responded to web-based and digital culture, promoted social consciousness and interaction and/or engaged ecological consequences?

**Panelists**

**VITO ACCONCI**
UMass Dept. of Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning
Designer / Architect, NYC

**ANNALIESE BISCHOFF**
UMass Dept. of Art, Architecture & Art History

**JOSEPH KRUPCZYNSKI**
UMass Dept. of Art, Architecture & Art History

**RICK LOWE**
Artist, Founder, Project Row Houses, Houston, TX

**ANNE PASTERNAK**
President / Director, Creative Time, NYC

**FRANK SLEEGERS**
UMass Dept. of Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning

**GEORGE TRAKAS**
Artist, Amherst, MA and NYC

**JACK AHERN**
UMass Dept. of Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning

**MARIO ONTIVEROS**
UMass Dept. of Art, Architecture & Art History

**SCHEDULE**

**Friday, April 25, 2008**
9:30 am
Welcoming remarks: Loretta Yarlow, Director, University Gallery
9:45 am-1:00 pm
Individual Presentations by Panelists
1:00 pm-2:00 pm
Lunch
2:00 pm-4:30 pm
Discussion among Panelists with Moderators; Q&A period
5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Reception and Opening of Juried Exhibition at the University Gallery

**Additional support is gratefully acknowledged: UMSS Alumni Association; UMSS Arts Council; Student Affairs Cultural Enrichment Fund; Friends of the Fine Arts Center Artist Residency Fund; UMSS Conference Services Administration; Campus Center Hotel; Dean, College of Humanities and Fine Arts; Dean, College of Natural Resources and Environment; Vice Provost for Research; Graduate Dean’s Office; Department of Art, Architecture and Art History; Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning; Western Massachusetts Chapter of the American Institute of Architects; William A. Berry & Son, Inc.; Steve and Ruah Dinkelaker, and other private sponsors.**

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