

# WHITNEY

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## Press Release

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### ***NEITHER NEW NOR CORRECT: NEW WORK BY MARK BRADFORD TO BE PRESENTED THIS FALL AT THE WHITNEY***



Mark Bradford, *Bread and Circuses*, 2007, Image courtesy of Sikkema, Jenkins & Co.

NEW YORK, July 3, 2007 – The latest body of work by Mark Bradford, recipient of the Whitney’s 2006 Bucksbaum Award, goes on view at the Whitney Museum of American Art, beginning September 14, 2007. With intricate surfaces composed of numerous layers of salvaged paper, Bradford’s most recent large-scale works, made in 2007, will be shown in the Anne & Joel Ehrenkranz Lobby Gallery on the Museum’s main floor.

Bradford’s works allude to the physical layers of the metropolitan environment of South Central Los Angeles, where the artist lives and works. Repurposing the advertising posters that he finds built up in layers on walls, windows, and light posts in his neighborhood, Bradford creates collage works of extraordinary impact, exploring the concept of place, and reflecting on the social and economic patterns of his community. Evocative of archeological excavation and the language of maps, these works delve into personal and collective memory, suggesting hidden histories and submerged traces

of the past. Bradford's collages recall the torn-poster works of French *affichiste* artists such as Raymond Hains and Jacques de la Villeglé, who worked in Paris in the 1950s and 1960s.

For this exhibition at the Whitney, organized by Whitney drawings curator Carter Foster, Bradford has created new works that layer advertising posters with string and other collage materials. The artist builds up his surfaces and then sands back into them, revealing hidden depths. Water, which can erase, erode, or act as a medium for mixing disparate elements, becomes a powerful metaphor in the present series.

Mark Bradford was born in 1961, in Los Angeles. He has had numerous one-person exhibitions since 1998, including *Very Powerful Lords* at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria in 2003. He was also included in the seminal exhibition *Freestyle* at the Studio Museum in Harlem and in the Whitney Biennial in 2006. His work appears in major private and museum collections nationwide.

On the occasion of the exhibition, a catalogue, with an essay by curator Carter Foster, is being co-published by the Whitney and Yale University Press. The title of both the exhibition and catalogue, *Neither New nor Correct: New Work by Mark Bradford*, was the choice of the artist. A comment on the limits of knowledge – or on information that looks plausible, but perhaps isn't – it refers to a description on an 18<sup>th</sup>-century map of the world, disingenuously labeled as "new and correct."

#### **ABOUT THE BUCKSBAUM AWARD**

The Bucksbaum Award is given every two years to an artist, chosen from the Whitney Biennial, whose work demonstrates a singular combination of talent and imagination and who has made or promises to make significant contributions to the visual arts in the United States. In addition to receiving a \$100,000 grant, each Bucksbaum laureate is invited to present an exhibition at the Whitney.

Melva Bucksbaum, a Whitney trustee since 1996, launched The Bucksbaum Award in 2000. Ms. Bucksbaum and her family have long been devoted international patrons of art and culture. In addition to being a trustee of the Whitney, Ms. Bucksbaum serves on the boards of The American Friends of the Israel Museum and The Drawing Center, New York. She is also on the Committee on

Collections, The Museums at Harvard University; the International Committee of the Tate Gallery, London; and the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Since 1995, Ms. Bucksbaum has managed the Martin Bucksbaum Family Foundation. She is also President of the Robert I. Goldman Foundation. She and her husband Ray Learsy are members of the Woodrow Wilson Council in Washington, DC, and the Society of Fellows of the Aspen Institute, and serve on other cultural councils in Aspen, CO, including the Aspen Music Festival, The Anderson Ranch, and the Aspen Art Museum.

The previous recipients of The Bucksbaum Award are Paul Pfeiffer (2000), Irit Batsry (2002), and Raymond Pettibon (2004). The 2008 Bucksbaum Award will be given during the course of the next Whitney Biennial, which opens in March 2008.

## **ABOUT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM**

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, Louise Nevelson, and Lucas Samaras, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Kiki Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense critical and public debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today.

### ***Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art:***

Lincoln Kirstein	Through August 26, 2007
Profiling	Through September 9, 2007
Summer of Love: Art of the Psychedelic Era	Through September 16, 2007
Rudolf Stingel	June 28-October 14, 2007
Resistance Is...	June 29-September 2, 2007
Danny Lyon	September 7-November 2007
Mark Bradford	September 14-December 2007
Kara Walker	October 11, 2007-February 3, 2008
Lawrence Weiner	November 15, 2007-February 10, 2008
Modernisms	Through November 2007
Demuth's Late Paintings of Lancaster	February 23-April 27, 2008
2008 Whitney Biennial	Opens March 2008

*The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. For information, please call 1-800 WHITNEY or visit [www.whitney.org](http://www.whitney.org)*

**Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria:**

**Matthew Brannon**

**Through August 26, 2007**

*The Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria is located at 120 Park Avenue at 42nd Street. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sculpture Court Hours: Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sundays and holidays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Whitney Museum at Altria is funded by Altria Group, Inc. Admission is free. Free gallery talks are offered every Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 p.m. For further information, please call (917) 663-2453.*