

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
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MEDIA ALERT



OPEN PLAN: ANDREA FRASER

Feb 26- March 13, 2016

Open Plan: Andrea Fraser inaugurates a new series of installations on the fifth floor of the Whitney Museum of American Art. Fraser's site-specific project, *Down the River*, uses audio recorded at Sing Sing Correctional Facility – an institution, like the Whitney, situated alongside the Hudson River -- to bridge the social, cultural, and geographic divide separating museums from correctional facilities. Since the mid-1970s, the United States has seen a parallel boom in museum and prison construction, with some states, such as New York, recently reversing this trend with prison closures. Fraser's sound installation seeks to reflect on the parts we play in sustaining these disparate institutions. Fraser (b. 1965) is known for creating provocative work that spans performance, institutional critique, video, and audience engagement.

This installation is the first in the five-part *Open Plan* series, to be presented at the Whitney from February 26 through May 14, 2016. The series gives five artists -- Andrea Fraser, Lucy Dodd, Michael Heizer, Cecil Taylor, and Steve McQueen – the opportunity to present (and, in some cases, to create) their work making use of the dramatic space as one vast, unobstructed gallery. The largest column-free museum exhibition space in New York, the Neil Bluhm Family Galleries measure 18,200 square feet and feature windows with striking views east into the city and west to the Hudson River, making for an expansive and inspiring canvas.

Open Plan: Andrea Fraser is organized by Deputy Director for Programs and Nancy and Steve Crown Family Chief Curator Scott Rothkopf and assistant curator Laura Phipps.

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About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by the artist and philanthropist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (1875–1942), houses the foremost collection of American art from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Mrs. Whitney, an early and ardent supporter of modern American art, nurtured groundbreaking artists at a time when audiences were still largely preoccupied with the Old Masters. From her vision arose the Whitney Museum of American Art, which has been championing the most innovative art of the United States for more than eighty

years. The core of the Whitney's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit American art of our time and serve a wide variety of audiences in celebration of the complexity and diversity of art and culture in the United States. Through this mission and a steadfast commitment to artists themselves, the Whitney has long been a powerful force in support of modern and contemporary art and continues to help define what is innovative and influential in American art today.

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