

WHITNEY

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Press Release

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Doug Aitken *Electric Earth*, 1999. Film still, eight laserdisc installation and architectural environment. Whitney Museum of American Art, New York 2000.145 © Doug Aitken.

WHITNEY MUSEUM TO PRESENT *SITES* ON FEBRUARY 19

NEW YORK, February 13, 2008 – From February 19, 2009 to May 3, 2009, the Whitney Museum of American Art presents *Sites*, an exhibition exploring the various ways that artists have expanded and dealt with the notion of site or place. Drawn from the museum's permanent collection, the exhibition comprises approximately 50 works made between 1969 and 2005, including selected drawings, sculptures, prints, photographs, film and video. The exhibition is curated by Whitney curator Carter E. Foster and senior curatorial assistant Gary Carrion-Murayari.

Instead of attempting to realistically depict physical places—interiors, landscapes, or city views—artists have pushed the boundaries of sculpture and adopted time-based media to forge a connection between viewers and their surroundings. This resulted in works that not only represent sites but also serve as locations for a new kind of physical experience or imaginative contemplation.

The exhibit includes works by artists such as David Smith who, throughout his career, created complex photographic compositions of sculptures and the places that inspired them. This expanded the relationship between the work and the site of its creation and ultimately served as a precedent for artists of the late 1960s and early 1970s, including Robert Morris, Barry Le Va, and Michael Heizer. These featured artists conceived their sculptural work with a particular place in mind and used drawing to delineate their artistic actions before execution. A group of prints by Robert Morris, for example, propose a number of dramatic interventions into the landscape while the work of Agnes Denes transforms familiar images of the natural environment to suggest utopian relationships between us and our surroundings.

Artists have more recently moved fluidly between the site-specific and the visionary—often using drawing and video to combine these two positions. Works by Doug Aitken and Gary Simmons reveal this shift; Simmons' wall drawing registers the trace of the artist's presence in chalk, while Doug Aitken's multi-screen video installation offers an experience of time and space between the real and the imaginary.

Other artists include Vito Acconci, Alice Aycock, Robert Gober, Bruce Nauman, Richard Serra, and James Turrell, among others.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-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, 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. First housed on West 8th Street, the Whitney relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and in 1966 inaugurated its present home at 945 Madison Avenue, designed by Marcel Breuer. The Whitney is currently moving ahead with plans to build a second facility, designed by Renzo Piano, located in downtown New York at the entrance to the High Line in the Meatpacking District.

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

Alexander Calder: The Paris Years	Through February 15, 2009
Alex Bag	Through April 12, 2009
Synthetic	Through April 19, 2009
Artists Making Photographs	Through Spring 2009
Sites	Through May 3, 2009
Jenny Holzer	March 12, 2009-May 31, 2009
Dan Graham: Beyond	Opens June 25, 2009
Georgia O'Keeffe	September 17, 2009-January 17, 2010
Roni Horn AKA Roni Horn	November 6, 2009-January 24, 2010

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. Admission is \$15 for adults; Members, children (ages 11 and under), and New York City public high school students free. Senior citizens (62 and over) and students with valid ID: \$10. There is a \$6 admission fee for a pass to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6-9 pm. For information, please call 212-570-3600 or visit whitney.org