

WHITNEY

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Press Release

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WHITNEY TO OPEN "PROGRESS," A SELECTION OF WORKS FROM MUSEUM'S PERMANENT COLLECTION



Jerry N. Uelsmann, Mechanical Man #2, 1959. Gelatin silver print, 16 7/8 x 14 in. (42.9 x 35.6 cm). Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase, with funds from Joanne Leonhardt Cassullo and Kathryn Fleck 2000.13

NEW YORK, July 1, 2008 – "Progress," a selection of works from the Whitney's collection that invites us to contemplate our conceptions of the notion of "progress," opens on July 11, 2008, in the Whitney Museum of American Art's second-floor Mildred & Herbert Lee Galleries. The installation, with works ranging in date from 1926 to 2008, is curated by Donna De Salvo, Chief Curator and Associate Director of Programs, and Gary Carrion-Murayari, Senior Curatorial Assistant; the selection of works will shift in the fall.

As described in the exhibition wall text, “During the first half of 20th century, many American artists visualized the modernist faith in science and empirical knowledge. Individuals such as Josef Albers, Lazlo Moholy-Nagy, and Frederick Kiesler transported the revolutionary aims of the European avant-garde, especially those of Russian constructivism and the Bauhaus, to the United States, where a homegrown modernism emerged. Their influence can be seen in works as varied as Barnett Newman’s transcendent abstractions and Robert Rauschenberg’s technology-driven *Carnal Clocks*. Other artists are more neutral or even critical in their responses to changes wrought on the American landscape and psyche. Ed Ruscha addresses modernity’s linear advancement with cool detachment, tracking its effects over the passage of time, while the works of Louis Guglielmi and Robert Graham register an acute postwar anxiety toward urban sprawl and consumerism. The exhibition also features work by contemporary artists including Paul Sietsema, Glenn Ligon, and Sherrie Levine, who mine specific moments in the history of modernism to investigate the ways in which notions of progress have been used to construct systems of power and subjectivity that continue to affect contemporary life.”

In addition to the artists mentioned above, “Progress” includes works by Dan Flavin, Naum Gabo, Barbara Kruger, Louis Lozowick, Danny Lyon, Ad Reinhardt, Joel Sternfeld, and Diana Thater, 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:

Polaroids: Mapplethorpe
Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe
Paul McCarthy: Three Installations, Two Films
Alexander Calder: The Paris Years
William Eggleston

Through September 7, 2008
Through September 21, 2008
Through October 12, 2008
October 16, 2008–February 15, 2009
November 7, 2008–January 25, 2009

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; free for members, children (ages 11 and under), and New York City public high school students. 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 1-212-570-3600 or visit whitney.org