

# WHITNEY

Whitney Museum of American Art  
at Altria  
120 Park Avenue at 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10017  
[www.whitney.org](http://www.whitney.org)

## Press Release

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### WHITNEY AT ALTRIA TO OPEN *TRACE* June 30 – November 12, 2006

*Featuring new works by Jedediah Caesar, Shannon Ebner, Iván Navarro, Karyn Olivier, Michael Queenland, and Karlis Rekevics*

From June 30 through November 12, 2006, the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria presents *Trace: Jedediah Caesar, Shannon Ebner, Iván Navarro, Karyn Olivier, Michael Queenland, and Karlis Rekevics*, featuring six artists who deal in various ways with the idea of the spectral trace, the absent object, and how the invisible—time, memory, desire—shapes our material reality. A pervasive sense of loss and tragedy links a number of these works, but they also possess a kind of sublime memorialization.

Occupying both the Gallery and Sculpture Court, the exhibition features new work by Jedediah Caesar, Shannon Ebner, Iván Navarro, Karyn Olivier, Michael Queenland, and Karlis Rekevics. This exhibition is organized by Shamim M. Momin, Associate Curator, Whitney Museum of America Art, and Branch Director and Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria.

**Jedediah Caesar's** geode sculptures made from resin, dust, and detritus collected from his studio constitute a material archive of time and the subtle accrual of remnant objects. Cast from molds based on the schematic diameter of an earlier geode piece and encrusted with salt crystals and plaster forms that grow like barnacles from the surface, the new work functions both as a reflection of the past, a cross section of the ephemeral present, and a ghostly suggestion of future forms.

**Shannon Ebner's** work presents two projects juxtaposing photographs of past events and text that together act as an elusive monument to contemporary political alienation. Included are photographs of signs held in front of national monuments in Washington, D.C., shown in dialogue with a mural-sized panoramic photograph of Ebner's own temporary "memorial" sculpture—playing obliquely with notions of the historic, the monumental, and the iconic form in the American landscape.

**Iván Navarro's** sculptural installation consists of a large-scale, black cubic space in which viewers enter to find a set of illusionary mirrored sculptures infinitely reflecting text and light. Accompanied by a sound component, the work exists as both singular sculpture and also immersive environment in the Sculpture Court. Drawing from the legacy of Minimalism, Navarro explores the viewer's subjective encounters with formal composition and highlights the play of perception and memory.

**Karyn Olivier** employs spare sculptural interventions that evoke a consciousness of nostalgia and absence. With subtle manipulations of scale, function, and physical access, Olivier creates an equivocal location between public and private space. Consisting of a system of wooden ladders and latticed poles, her life-size jungle gym is inspired by the steel playground structures that existed in the early 20th century in many major cities.

**Michael Queenland** excavates cultural and religious forms that have become detached from their original associations and functions. Drawing from diverse sources such as art history, avant-garde practices, craft legacies, and religion, Queenland creates stark associative installations involving sculpture, photography, and found objects. Crafted at an enlarged scale, using a Shaker furniture how-to manual, his simple shelf sculpture is juxtaposed with a set of "peace medallions," similarly out-sized and slightly modified — shadows of the American psyche as expressed in past creative movements.

**Karlis Rekevics'** cast plaster sculptures of industrial objects from such overlooked urban spaces and objects as highway underpasses, cement traffic dividers, and sign posts render a psychologically charged landscape throughout the Sculpture Court. Indirectly translated from drawings made from his memory of these sites, and employing scale shifts just outside of the familiar, Rekevics' multiple installations create individual vignettes that comprise an overall narrative of estrangement within the urban environment.

*Trace: Jedediah Caesar, Shannon Ebner, Iván Navarro, Karyn Olivier, Michael Queenland, and Karlis Rekevics* is accompanied by a free brochure with an essay by Shamim M. Momin. Free gallery talks are offered every Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 p.m.

The Whitney Museum at Altria is funded by Altria Group, Inc.

## 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 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 at Altria:

Andrea Zittel: Wagon Stations	Through June 18, 2006
Trace	Opens June 29, 2006
Burgeoning Geometries	December 7, 2006 – March 11, 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.*

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

Full House: The Whitney's Collection at 75 <i>*Edward Hopper on view June 7-December 7, 2006</i>	June 29-September 3, 2006*
Mark Grotjahn	September 15, 2006-January 7, 2007
Picasso and American Art	September 28, 2006-January 28, 2007
Albers and Moholy-Nagy	November 2, 2006-January 21, 2007
Kiki Smith	November 16, 2006-February 11, 2007
Terence Koh	Opens January 2007
Gordon Matta-Clark	Opens February 2007
Lorna Simpson	Opens Spring 2007

*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)*