

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum of American Art
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Press Release

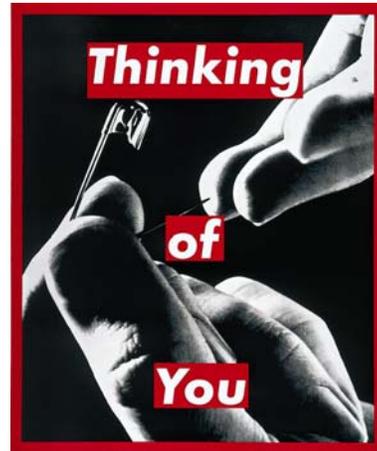
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PRESS PREVIEW:
Tuesday, June 27th
10 am - 1 pm

FULL HOUSE: VIEWS OF THE WHITNEY'S COLLECTION AT 75 INCLUDES RARELY SEEN WORKS, CELEBRATES WHITNEY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY **On view June 29–September 3, 2006**



Robert Bechtle, '61 Pontiac, 1968-69



Barbara Kruger, *Untitled (Thinking of you)*, 1999-2000

This summer, on the occasion of the Whitney's 75th anniversary, the entire museum is dedicated to *Full House: Views of the Whitney's Collection at 75*, a presentation drawn from the permanent collection. Not a definitive survey, *Full House* is principally organized around transformative moments, or "flashpoints," in American art, and proposes a series of dynamic dialogues between works of art across all media, spanning the 20th century to the present. The exhibition is on view from June 29 through September 3, 2006.

This is one of the few times that the Breuer building has been devoted exclusively to the display of the collection. "Building on the Whitney's founding mission to support new artists and emerging art forms, the exhibition proposes an active conversation between the present and the past," said Donna De Salvo, Chief Curator and Associate Director for Programs.

Ms. De Salvo added, "It could be argued that a permanent collection is the 'long-term memory' of a museum and this presentation acknowledges the place of history without being constrained by it." Ms. De Salvo organized this exhibition with a team of her colleagues Carter Foster, Barbara Haskell, Henriette Huldish, and Dana Miller.

Three of the Museum's main floors are organized around concentrations of works loosely associated with Abstract Expressionism, Pop art, and Minimalism – movements represented in depth by the Whitney's collection. These key moments in 20th century art registered broadly on an international level and ushered in a new chapter in how art produced in the United States was perceived. On each floor, works from the last and present century are exhibited alongside the "core" works, sometimes resulting in unexpected or surprising juxtapositions. By combining a range of works into a single presentation, *Full House* reveals the ways that these art historical categories have retained their currency and persist today as conceptual, ideological and stylistic frameworks.

The fourth floor, *What You See Is What You See*, is anchored by Minimalist works of the mid 1960s to early 1970s and explores ideas related to industrial production, materiality, and conceptual practices. The third floor, *The Pure Products of America Go Crazy*, takes Pop art as its focal point, with works from the 1960s installed within the context of a range of historical and contemporary developments, including those that address urbanism, consumerism, appropriation, and politics. The second floor, *Content Is a Glimpse*, is centered on art of the late 1940s and early 1950s, when Abstract Expressionism was at its apex. While Abstract Expressionism left a complicated legacy, one of its enduring influences was its preoccupation with the transcendent or spiritual qualities of art, and this floor includes more recent work that shares and expands upon these ideas.

The fifth floor, *Holiday in Reality: Edward Hopper*, is dedicated to a large-scale presentation of works by Edward Hopper, whose legacy is intimately connected to the Whitney. The Museum's vast collection of works by Hopper is supplemented by key loans, including such major paintings as the Art Institute of Chicago's *Nighthawks* (which will be on view starting October 4) and the Museum of Modern Art's *New York Movie*, which will be shown in a rare presentation with their preparatory drawings and Hopper's Journal entries. The mezzanine level features a selection of works from the Whitney's photography collection that suggests a connection to Hopper's painting in sensibility, subject matter, or composition.

Calder's Circus, one of the Whitney's most beloved works, is newly installed in the Lobby Gallery.

This exhibition, while celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the museum, asserts the Whitney's commitment to the continual and innovative display of its collection. As the museum looks ahead to a planned architectural expansion, this presentation will also serve as a necessary lab for experimentation, suggesting new perspectives on the last seventy-five years of the Whitney while flashing forward to the next important chapter in its history.

About The Whitney Museum

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, 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:

Full House: Views of the Whitney's Collection at 75	June 29-September 3, 2006*
*Edward Hopper on view through December 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	January - May 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

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

Trace	June 30 - November 12, 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.

Image Captions (l. to r.):

Robert Bechtle, *'61 Pontiac*, 1968-69. Oil on Canvas, 59 3/4 x 84 1/4 in. (151.8 x 214 cm). Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase, with funds from the Richard and Dorothy Rodgers Fund 70.16. Photograph by Geoffery Clements

Barbara Kruger, *Untitled (Thinking of you)*, 1999-2000. Photographic screenprint on vinyl, 123 x 101 in. (312.4 x 256.5 cm). Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; purchase, with funds from the Katherine Schmidt Shubert Purchase Fund 2000.217. Photograph by Sheldan Collins