

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum of American Art

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

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WHITNEY PRESENTS LOT-EK: MOBILE DWELLING UNIT,
JULY 1- SEPTEMBER 19, 2004

This summer the Whitney unveils **LOT-EK: Mobile Dwelling Unit** by the maverick New York-based architectural team of Ada Tolla and Giuseppe Lignano, known for their reinvention of conventional space using the discarded materials of everyday life. The piece is on view in the Museum's Sculpture Court, July 1 through September 19, 2004.

The Mobile Dwelling Unit (MDU), an architectural prototype, incorporates a modern, industrial vernacular with the ideals of efficient living found in other forms of itinerant housing. In this work LOT-EK turns an ordinary, standardized steel shipping container--designed for transporting cargo on trains, ships, trucks, and airplanes--into an easily transportable living space. Fully equipped with a kitchen, dining area, bed, closet, sofa, sink, shower, toilet, and entertainment amenities, its compartments expand and contract in order to easily transport the living quarters to new locales. A central computer monitors airflow, temperature levels, and lighting, as well as various communications devices installed throughout the structure, while the structure as a whole runs on an urban power grid. The container serves as a potential model for living in a transitory, global age that increasingly values mobility, comfort, and technological efficiency. Architectural drawings and an accompanying video are also on view in the Lower Lobby of the Museum.

The LOT-EK aesthetic embraces ideals of low maintenance, industrial materials, clean lines, and modern technology, challenging conventional notions of habitable space. Their inventive architectural structures are concerned with the existence of the human body in a technologically driven, industrial environment.

Organized for the Whitney by Debra Singer, associate curator of contemporary art, **LOT-EK: Mobile Dwelling Unit** is presented as part of *The Contemporary Series*.

The exhibition was organized by the University Art Museum at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The fabrication of the Mobile Dwelling Unit was made possible by the American Center Foundation. The exhibition and publication were made possible in part through the National Endowment for the Arts, a Federal Agency, and the Italian Cultural Institute.

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is widely regarded as the preeminent collection of 20th-century American art and includes the entire artistic estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, Louise Nevelson, and Lucas Samaras, as well as significant works by Arshile Gorky, 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 a measure of the state of contemporary art in America today.

ABOUT THE WHITNEY

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

Inside Out: Portrait Photographs Through May 23, 2004

2004 Biennial Through May 30, 2004

Benton Murals: The Arts in America Through January 2, 2005

Benton and America: Works on Paper May 20-September 5, 2004

Art and Photography 1960-1975 May 29-September 5, 2004

Ed Ruscha Drawings June 24-September 26, 2004

Ed Ruscha and Photography June 24-September 26, 2004

Ana Mendieta July 1-September 19, 2004

LOT-EK: Mobile Dwelling Unit July 1-September 19, 2004

Jennifer Pastor October 6, 2004-January 2005

Romare Bearden October 14, 2004-January 9, 2005

Isamu Noguchi: Master Sculptor October 28, 2004-January 16, 2005

The Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday,