

WHITNEY

DAVID HAMMONS DAY'S END



Rendering of Day's End by David Hammons. Courtesy Guy Nordenson and Associates

The Whitney Museum of American Art will soon unveil a permanent public art project by the New York-based David Hammons—a leading contemporary artist since the 1970s—that will be located in Hudson River Park along the southern edge of Gansevoort Peninsula, directly across from the Museum.

Central to Hammons's *Day's End* is the innovative project of the same name undertaken by Gordon Matta-Clark (1943-1978) in 1975. Matta-Clark cut massive openings into the exterior walls and floor of the dilapidated Pier 52 shed that formerly occupied the site, transforming it into what he described as a “temple to sun and water.” With exquisite simplicity, Hammons's artwork traces the outlines, dimensions, and location of the original shed in slender steel beams. It appears evanescent and ethereal, changing with the light of day and atmospheric conditions. *Day's End* alludes to the history of New York's waterfront, from the heyday of the city's shipping industry in the late nineteenth

century to its role as a gathering place for the gay community in the 1970s. The project embodies the Whitney's mission to support living artists in realizing their visions, to serve the community, and to connect to the public through art.

The Whitney is producing a rich array of interpretive materials about *Day's End* for use both on-site and online, including its first podcast series. In September 2020, the Whitney presented the exhibition *Around Day's End: Downtown New York, 1970-1986*, exploring downtown New York as site, history, and memory and featuring works from the Museum's collection by approximately fifteen artists, including Gordon Matta-Clark, Alvin Baltrop, Joan Jonas, Martin Wong, and Dawoud Bey.

Visit whitney.org/DaysEnd for more information.

Day's End by David Hammons

Public art project at Gansevoort Peninsula in Hudson River Park



Design concept for Gansevoort Peninsula by James Corner Field Operations. Courtesy: Hudson River Park Trust, New York.



David Hammons, sketch for Day's End, 2015

Specifications

Materials consist of stainless steel and precast concrete. The steel frame is anchored by precast concrete pile caps supported on steel piles. Overall dimensions, based upon documentation of the original pier shed, will be 52 feet high at its peak, 325 feet long, and 65 feet wide. The structure has five columns on the southern edge of Gansevoort Peninsula and seven columns in the Hudson River. Each column is 40 feet tall, and 8 $\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter.

Whitney Museum of American Art

99 Gansevoort Street, New York, NY 10014



David Hammons, 2019. Photograph by Matthew Carasella

About the Artist

David Hammons, who studied at the Chouinard Art Institute and at the Otis College of Art and Design with the artist Charles White from 1968 to 1972, creates art that defies easy categorization. Often employing found materials and everyday objects, he is known for culturally critical artworks in which art and life intersect to often transformative effect. Born in Springfield, Illinois, he has lived in New York since 1974. He has received the Guggenheim Fellowship (1984) and MacArthur Fellowship (1991), and his work is in many major museum collections including those of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, Mass., and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.

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