

## **PAT STEIR CREATES WALL PAINTING AT THE WHITNEY**

**NEW YORK, January 3, 2011** – Visible through the Madison Avenue windows of the Whitney Museum of American Art is a vast new wall painting created by artist Pat Steir, commissioned by Adam D. Weinberg, the Whitney's Alice Pratt Brown Director. The painting, which went on view to the public in late December, is on a large west-facing wall in the Museum's Lower Gallery level. The wall encloses the space where the Whitney's restaurant is being renovated in preparation for the opening, in spring 2011, of a new café by Danny Meyer's Union Square Hospitality Group.

*Another Nearly Endless Line* (2010) is composed on a wall washed with fourteen layers of transparent blue and purple acrylic paint, with a chalk grid of Pompeian red drawn upon the ground, and a swirling, undulating, painted line in red, orange, and yellow. The painted line, perhaps evoking a text, a road, a message, or a musical score, pulls the eye from the upper left across the wall and back again, until the line seems to disappear into the floor. Speaking of the work, the artist noted, "It's almost like a map you can't follow, a road map to a place you can't go..." This is Steir's second wall painting for the Whitney; the previous one was done by the artist in the same location in 1997.

Steir's earlier site-specific wall installation, *The Nearly Endless Line*, is currently on view, through January 9, at Sue Scott Gallery on Rivington Street in downtown Manhattan.

Steir, a major figure in American art since the 1970s, has created some of the most ambitious and challenging drawings of the last four decades. A survey of forty years of her work was recently exhibited at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence and at the Neuberger Museum of Art in Purchase, New York. She has created wall paintings in many other cities and at other museums going back to the 1980s when she painted a wall at the former home of the New Museum. Her work is included in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R.

Guggenheim Museum, The National Gallery of Art in Washington, the Tate in London, and the Whitney, among many others. She lives and works in New York.

### **About the Whitney**

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the preeminent institution devoted to twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States, with a special focus on works by living artists. The Whitney's collection, which comprises over 18,000 works by more than 2800 artists, 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 and Coosje van Bruggen, 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. Founded in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street. The Museum 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 Manhattan at the entrance to the High Line in the Meatpacking District.

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

**Karthik Pandian: Unearth** Now on view

**Singular Visions** Now on view

**Paul Thek: Diver, A Retrospective** Through January 9, 2011

**Slater Bradley and Ed Lachman: Shadow** Through January 23, 2010

**Charles LeDray: workworkworkworkwork** Through February 13, 2011

**Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time** Through April 10, 2011

**Legacy: The Emily Fisher Landau Collection** February 10-May 1, 2011

**Glenn Ligon: AMERICA** March 10-June 5, 2011

**Cory Arcangel: Pro Tools** Opens May 26, 2011

**Lyonel Feininger: At the Edge of the World** Opens June 30, 2011

*The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, 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. General admission: \$18. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$12. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only: \$6. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit [whitney.org](http://whitney.org). Please see website for special holiday hours.*