

WHITNEY

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Press Release

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PRESS PREVIEW:
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WHITNEY TO PRESENT FULL-SCALE GORDON MATTA-CLARK RETROSPECTIVE IN FEBRUARY 2007



Gordon Matta-Clark working on *Splitting*, 1974, Englewood, New Jersey.
Courtesy the Estate of Gordon Matta-Clark and David Zwirner, New York.

The first full-scale retrospective in twenty years of the work of Gordon Matta-Clark will open at the Whitney Museum of American Art on February 22, 2007. *Gordon Matta-Clark: "You Are the Measure"* – which travels subsequently to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles – includes Matta-Clark's major works and presents numerous projects. The exhibition's curator is Elisabeth Sussman, Curator and Sondra Gilman Curator of Photography at the Whitney.

During the brief but highly productive decade that he worked as an artist -- and even more so since his early death -- Gordon Matta-Clark (1943-1978) has exerted a powerful influence on artists and architects and has emerged as a key figure of the generation that came after Minimalism. This retrospective celebrates the brilliance and radical nature of his work in a number of different mediums: the sculptural objects (most notably from building cuts), drawings, films, photographs, notebooks and documentary material.

"Matta-Clark's engagement as an artist was integral with his ideas of community," notes curator Elisabeth Sussman. "As a founder and participant in the earliest performance spaces and an originator of the now-famed artist's restaurant, Food, he was a pioneer in the transformation of lower New York into the artist's neighborhood SoHo. His extraordinary career also developed in an international context. His major cuts in buildings in Europe in Genoa, Antwerp, and Paris were truly memorable as events and as unforgettable spatial experiences, as were his comparable projects in New York and its environs: on the Hudson piers, in tenements, beneath the city's bridges, streets, and in suburban New Jersey."

The son of the Surrealist painter Roberto Echaurren Matta (1911-2002), Gordon Matta-Clark was educated as an architect at Cornell, but was drawn away from the formal practice of architecture and attracted to art, with all its expanded possibilities. At Cornell, in 1969, Matta-Clark assisted on the path-breaking Earth Art exhibition that brought together a number of seminal figures, including Robert Smithson.

His move to New York City quickly focused his attention on the particularities of the urban context and on his own concrete spatial, social, and psychological experience. By the early years of the 1970s, Matta-Clark had come to see buildings, rooms, urban spaces, neighborhoods, and places where people gather as situations in which his planned interventions could create something new. His most well-known interventions were his cuts into existing buildings, resulting in incisions which shifted everyday experience into extraordinary visual and kinetic confrontations. His work ensued as a series of projects that included interactions with architecture and space, community events, and collective activity.

Funders

Presenting Sponsor



Major support is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., The National Committee of the Whitney Museum of American Art, and The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, Inc.

About the Whitney

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 *Edward Hopper on view through December 3, 2006	Portions on view through Oct. 15, 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	March 1-May 6, 2007
Summer of Love: Art of the Psychedelic Era	Summer 2007
Rudolf Stingel	Summer 2007
Kara Walker	Opens October 2007
Lawrence Weiner	Opens October 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	Through 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.