

# WHITNEY

## Press Release

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### WHITNEY AT ALTRIA TO OPEN *ANDREA ZITTEL: SMALL LIBERTIES* February 9 – June 18, 2006



**Andrea Zittel**, A-Z Wagon Station customized by Russell Whitten  
Installation view, A-Z West; Courtesy Andrea Rosen Gallery New York

From February 9 through June 18, 2006, the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria presents *Andrea Zittel: Small Liberties*, a selection of individually customized mobile units, many of which have never been previously exhibited. Through the research, design and remodeling of her own domestic and external environments, Andrea Zittel creates experimental living structures that comprise an evolving body of different systems for living. Her work, which was seen in the 2004 Whitney Biennial, centers on the recognition that rules—generally understood as externally prescribed and largely inviolable—are fundamentally arbitrary and can be reconfigured, investigated and explored on an individual basis. Embracing the notion that all aspects of one's existence, however quotidian and typically overlooked, can be an opportunity for contemplation, Zittel's practice explodes the unfortunate move towards universal standardization we experience in contemporary life, seeking to balance the tension between individuality and community, beauty and use, material clarity/truthfulness and conceptual rigor. This exhibition is organized by Shamim M. Momin, Associate Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art, and Branch Director and Curator, Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria.

Zittel's current project *A-Z West* (in Joshua Tree, CA), a culmination of the past ten years of experimentation with these systems of living, is a fully realized compound and community within the harsh, largely inhospitable, desert environment. Seeking an uncolonized, potentially sustainable space within an increasingly prescribed culture, *A-Z West* is an ongoing, research and design lab for a better world.

*Andrea Zittel: Small Liberties* includes multiple Wagon Stations created at the Joshua Tree site, customized by invited individuals who have participated in the development of Zittel's desert community. These single-person units illuminate the basic tenets of Zittel's work overall, the visual modularity of a system made simultaneously representative of specific personalities, locating moments of the liberating contemplation suggested by the exhibition's title. By transplanting them to an urban landscape, the simple clarity of the overall system of the stations is highlighted, while retaining the individuality of each object. The exhibition also includes a new audiovisual presentation, which is a visual diary with spoken and written narrative, chronicling Zittel's recent life and work in Joshua Tree.

This exhibition runs concurrently with a mid-career retrospective, *Andrea Zittel: Critical Space*, on view at the New Museum of Contemporary Art in Chelsea from January 26 to April 29, 2006.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Born in 1965 in Escondido, California, Andrea Zittel received her B.F.A in Painting/Sculpture from San Diego State University and her M.F.A in Sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design. She has exhibited her work in solo exhibitions at venues including Philomene Magers Projekte, Munich; Andrea Rosen Gallery, New York; Gallery Side 2, Tokyo; Regen Projects, Los Angeles; Sadie Coles HQ, London; Susan Inglett, New York; Galerie Franck & Schulte, Berlin; Central Park, New York; Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Austria; Museum fur Gegenwartskunst, Basel; The Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; and San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Her work has also been featured in several group exhibitions including; "Tempo," Museum of Modern Art; "Touch Relational Art from the 1990's to Now," San Francisco Art Institute; "Art Unlimited," Basel Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland; "Elysian Fields," Centre Georges Pompidou; "About Place: Recent Art of the Americas," The Art Institute of Chicago; and "Who Chooses Who Benefit Auction," New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York. She has received numerous awards,

including the 1999 Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation catalogue support prize, the 1996 Coutts Contemporary Art Foundation Award, and the 1990 Award of Excellence from the Rhode Island School of Design.

## **ABOUT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM**

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-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:***

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Building and Breaking the Grid, 1962-2002         | Through January 8, 2006             |
| The New City: Sub/Urbia in Recent Photography     | Through January 15, 2006            |
| Course of Empire: Paintings by Ed Ruscha          | Through January 29, 2006            |
| Richard Tuttle                                    | Through February 5, 2006            |
| Oscar Bluemner: A Passion for Color               | Through February 12, 2006           |
| Morgan Fisher                                     | Through February 12, 2006           |
| Raymond Pettibon                                  | Through February 19, 2006           |
| Whitney Biennial 2006                             | March 2-May 28, 2006                |
| Permanent Collection: 75th Anniversary Exhibition | June-September 2006                 |
| Picasso and American Art                          | September 28, 2006-January 28, 2007 |
| Kiki Smith: A Gathering, 1980-2005                | November 16, 2006-February 11, 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](http://www.whitney.org)*

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

|                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Rob Fischer                   | Through January 22, 2006   |
| Andrea Zittel: Wagon Stations | February 9 – June 18, 2006 |

*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.*