



untitled, 2002-2007

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JOEL SHAPIRO: NEW SCULPTURE ON VIEW AT PACEWILDENSTEIN, 545 WEST 22ND STREET IN NOVEMBER

NEW YORK, OCTOBER 17, 2007—PaceWildenstein will present *Joel Shapiro: New Sculpture*, an installation of nine new works on view at 545 West 22nd Street, New York City from November 2, 2007 through January 19, 2008. The exhibition includes four painted wood sculptures and five bronzes, the largest measuring 13' 4" x 27' 9-1/2" x 12' 11". **The artist will be present at a public opening reception held on Thursday, November 1st from 6-8 p.m.**

Five years ago Shapiro embarked on a series of hanging constructions made from wire and wood. Moving further away from anatomical references, the hanging sculpture signified a radical departure. The spontaneity and unpredictability of the assemblage led to a transformation in Shapiro's new investigations of form and how sculptural compositions affect perceptions of volume, space, and movement.

Dr. Richard Shiff, Effie Marie Cain Regents Chair in Art and Director of the Center for the Study of Modernism at the University of Texas at Austin, has contributed an essay to the accompanying exhibition catalogue. Dr. Shiff writes, "Large or small, his sculptural constructions divide into relatively manageable units of material, so that the character of a work is never the product of imposing size but of

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articulation.... In every instance, Shapiro's sculpture draws its animating energy not from its grounding or means of support, nor from the volume of architectural space that may surround it, but from its internal tensions." Dr. Shiff also remarks on Shapiro's application of color on the wood sculptures. "Shapiro's use of color—sand-blasted paint, either rose or blue on selected elements, slight traces of yellow on some others—enhances the effect by dissociating the individual segments so that the blockiness of units does not become heavy by accumulation. This observation might hold for many of Shapiro's works: reason seems to tell us that they should appear heavier than they do. When we suspend reason, experience seizes the opportunity to correct it."

Joel Shapiro (born 1941, New York City) received a B.A. (1964) and M.A. (1969) from New York University. Since his first one-person exhibition in 1970, Shapiro's work has been the subject of over 100 solo exhibitions and retrospectives. In 2008, the city of Bilbao will unveil a new sculpture by Joel Shapiro. The Norton Museum recently commissioned the artist to create a two-part sculpture "Up/Over", which he will inaugurate in December of this year. Shapiro is currently working on a new public commission of a suspended bronze sculpture that will be installed late 2008 or 2009 in London at 23 Saville Row. In 2005, Shapiro was invited to participate in *Correspondences*, a program organized by the Musee d'Orsay to present the museum's collection through the eyes of contemporary artists who are asked to exhibit one of their works in relationship to a work from the permanent collection. Shapiro selected Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux's La Danse, 1865-1869, which was originally created for the exterior of the Paris Opera, because he admired Carpeaux's ability to recreate the energy of vivacious movement within his six dancing figures. Shapiro's own sculpture 20 Elements, 2004, juxtaposed against the Carpeaux, achieves the same energy, however through abstract means. The exhibition coincided with *Joel Shapiro: Work in Wood, Plaster, and Bronze 2001-2005* at PaceWildenstein.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art featured the artist in the summer and autumn of 2001 in a solo exhibition on The Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Roof Garden. Other solo exhibitions include: the Spoleto Festival USA, Charleston, which then traveled to the McNay Art Museum, San Antonio and Denver Art Museum (2000-01); The Yorkshire Sculpture Park, England exhibited *Joel Shapiro: Sculptures 1974-1999* (1999-2000); and in 1999, the American Academy in Rome organized *Joel Shapiro: Roma*, an installation of Shapiro's smaller works at the Academy and larger works installed in public spaces throughout the city.

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Earlier solo exhibitions include the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis and Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City which co-organized and exhibited *Joel Shapiro: Outdoors*, the first major outdoor exhibition of the artist's bronzes (1995-96); *Joel Shapiro* organized by IVAM Centro Julio Gonzalez, Valencia, Spain that later traveled to the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark, Kunsthalle Zurich and Musee des Beaux-Arts, Calais, France (1990-91); *Joel Shapiro*, an exhibition of drawings and sculpture, was organized by the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam and later exhibited at the Kunsthauus Düsseldorf and Staatliche Kunsthalle, Baden-Baden, Germany (1985-86); a major mid-career survey organized by The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York with subsequent venues at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto and San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art (1982-84); and *Joel Shapiro: Sculpture and Drawing* at The Whitechapel Art Gallery, London that later traveled to the Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld, Germany and Moderna Museet, Stockholm (1980).

Joel Shapiro was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1998 and to the Swedish Royal Academy of Art in 1994. Throughout his career, he has been honored with numerous awards including an Award of Merit Medal for Sculpture given by the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, NY (1990); Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture (1986); Brandeis University Creative Arts Award (1984); and the Visual Art Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts (1975). In addition, Shapiro's work has regularly been exhibited in prestigious group exhibitions such as the Whitney Biennial, NY (1977, 1979, 1981, 1989), Documenta in Kassel, Germany (1977, 1982), and the Venice Biennale (1980).

More than 20 commissions and publicly sited sculptures by Shapiro are located in major Asian, European and North American cities including a commissioned work for Des Moines, Iowa (2006); a commissioned sculpture for the Weir Sculpture Garden, Albany Institute of History and Art, (2005); Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas (2003); Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, New Orleans Museum of Art, (2003); Harvard Business School, Boston (2000-2003); a commission for the Communaute de Communes de L'Agglomeration Orleanaise, Orléans (2001); Rockefeller University, New York (2000); International Sculpture Collection, Rotterdam (2000); National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC (1999); University of Cincinnati (1999); and Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (1999). In 1999, the Friends of Art and Preservation in Embassies (FAPE) commissioned the

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artist to make a unique sculpture for the United States Embassy in Ottawa, Canada. In addition, his works are installed at the Köln Skulpture Park, Germany (1999); Kanton of Aarau, Switzerland (1997); Israel Museum, Jerusalem (1996); the Sony Plaza, New York (1994-95); and commissioned for both the Kansas City International Airport (1994-96) and Friedrichstadt Passagen, Berlin (1994-95). In 1993, Mr. Shapiro was invited by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. to create a site specific sculpture outside one of the entrances to the museum.

Joel Shapiro's work can be found in over eighty public collections in the United States and abroad, including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; The Art Institute of Chicago; The Cleveland Museum of Art; Dallas Museum of Art; Des Moines Art Center; Hakone Open-Air Museum, Hakone-machi, Japan; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; IVAM Centre Julio González, Valencia; Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California; Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, MO; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Saint Louis Art Museum; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Tate Gallery, London; Nykyaiteen Museo, Helsinki, Finland; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others.

Joel Shapiro lives and works in New York City.

Additional information for *Joel Shapiro: New Sculpture* is available upon request by contacting Jennifer Benz Joy, Public Relations Associate, at 212.421.8987 or via email at jjoy@pacewildenstein.com.

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ADDITIONAL WORKS ON VIEW:



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