

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

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KIKI SMITH: REALMS

PaceWildenstein is pleased to present *Realms*, new single and multipart work by Kiki Smith on view from March 14 through April 27, 2002 at Pace's Chelsea gallery (534 West 25th Street, New York City). Five principal pieces comprised of life-size, figurative sculptures will explore the themes of life, death, resurrection and rebirth. The exhibition includes: *Born*, a sculpture depicting a woman being born out of a deer; *Ditch*, a three-dimensional imprint of Smith's own body lying in the ground, covered in dirt and inverted, on whose surface a biblical excerpt from Revelations is written in raised letters; *Rapture*, a sculpture representing a woman walking out of an upside-down wolf; a sculptural grouping of three separate women kneeling on pyres with their arms outstretched; and a sculptural grouping comprised of three separate women—whose stiff bodies are stylistically reminiscent of Greek kore figures—placed on wooden stanchions at precarious angles. Incorporating bronze, aluminum and wooden elements, *Realms* elaborates upon many subjects central to Smith's oeuvre such as anatomy, anthropology, mythology and religion. In a catalogue foreword accompanying a recent exhibition at the Ulmer Museum in Germany, Director Brigitte Reinhardt writes: "Kiki Smith has made a significant contribution to reflection on human existence...[she] works beyond the boundaries of doctrine...and takes inspiration from archaic myths and ideas, from the fables and fairy tales of western culture, in creating meditative and healing images."

Kiki Smith (b. 1954: Nuremburg, Germany) trained in art making through her participation in COLAB (Collaborative Projects), a New York-based cooperative that maintained an active membership of over forty artists in the mid-Seventies. In 1982, Smith received her first solo exhibition, *Life Wants to Live*, at The Kitchen (New York, NY), and in the past twenty years her work has been the subject of over eighty solo shows worldwide. Smith's early career, one-person exhibitions were organized by a cross-section of domestic and international venues including: the Dallas Museum of Art (1989); the Centre d'Arte Contemporaine (Geneva, 1990); the Institute of Contemporary Art (Amsterdam, 1990); The Museum of Modern Art (New York, 1990-91); the MAK Galerie (Vienna, 1991); the Corcoran Gallery

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of Art (Washington, DC, 1991); the Österreichisches Museum für angewandte Kunst (Vienna, 1992); the Williams College Museum of Art and the Wexner Center for the Arts (Williamstown, MA and Columbus, OH, 1992-93); Anthony d'Offay Gallery (London, 1993); the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art and the Kunsternes Hus (Humblebæk, Denmark and Oslo, Norway, 1994); and the Israel Museum (1994). In 1994, *Drawings* marked Smith's first exhibition with PaceWildenstein. That same year Barbara Krakow Gallery (Boston) organized *Prints and Multiples 1985-1993*, a two-year traveling show of Smith's work exhibited at university collections and regional museums throughout the United States.

More recently, Smith's solo exhibitions have included: *Kiki Smith* at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX (1996-97); *Paradise Cage: Kiki Smith and Coop Himmelblau* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1996-97); *Kiki Smith: Convergence* at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (1997-98); *Directions – Kiki Smith: Night* at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC (1998); *Invention/Intervention: Kiki Smith and the Museums* at the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (1998); *Familiars* at the Center for Curatorial Studies Museum, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY (1999); *My Nature: Works with Paper by Kiki Smith* at the St. Louis Art Museum (1999-2000); and *Kiki Smith: Telling Tales* at the International Center for Photography (2001). Smith has participated in group exhibitions since 1979 and her work has been shown in alternative art spaces, benefit exhibitions, galleries, museums, public art spaces and university collections in over fifteen countries. In 1993, Smith's work was featured in *Aperto* at the Venice Biennale, and this year is the third occasion—previously in 1991 and 1993—that her work will be presented in the Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Smith received the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture in 2000.

Kiki Smith's work can be found in over thirty-five public collections around the world, including: the Art Institute of Chicago; the Bonner Kunstverein (Bonn, Germany); the Cleveland Museum of Art; the Corcoran Gallery of Art (Washington, DC); the Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University (Cambridge, MA); the High Museum of Art (Atlanta, GA); the Irish Museum of Modern Art (Dublin, Ireland); the Israel Museum (Jerusalem, Israel); the J.B. Speed Art Museum (Louisville, KY); the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (Humblebæk, Denmark); The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, NY); the Moderna Museet (Stockholm, Sweden); The

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Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; The Museum of Modern Art (New York, NY); The New York Public Library; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Tate Gallery (London, England); the Victoria and Albert Museum (London, England); the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, NY); and the Yale University Art Gallery (New Haven, CT).

Concurrent with the PaceWildenstein exhibition, Smith's work will also be presented in the Whitney 2002 Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York from March 7 through May 26, 2002; at Triple Candie gallery, New York from March 16 through April 16, 2002; and, in *Unnatural Science* at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams through April 15, 2002. Kiki Smith currently lives and works in New York City.

Images are available upon request.

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