

THE PACE GALLERY

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ROBERT IRWIN: SITE-CONDITION PROJECTS AND TWO NEW INSTALLATIONS
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In 1972 Robert Irwin said: "The art act is a tool for extended consciousness. My interest in art has never been about abstraction; it has always been about experience...My pieces were never meant to be dealt with intellectually as ideas, but to be considered experientially."

During the last decade, Irwin travelled continually, maintaining a dialogue with educators, students, public officials and all who would listen, concerning the perceptual and experiential nature of art. At the same time, he created permanent "site-conditioned" works in public places and developed temporary installations in museums, galleries, and universities, illustrating his belief that art is an experience available to all who are willing to open themselves to its possibilities. His aim was to transform an existing space with a minimum of means; to heighten the observer's awareness of that space--so one would see it in a new way.

He has now completed or is in the process of completing about a dozen significant public projects which transform the environments into which they are placed. The variety of work is astonishing - each project is an unique response to the specific requirements of the site.

Because he believes so strongly in the participatory nature of the art experience, Irwin has always been reluctant to have his work reproduced. However, for the exhibition at The Pace Gallery, Irwin has consented, for the first time, to extensive documentation of his current work. He has compiled models, drawings, plans and photographs to present the clearest possible record of both his completed projects, as well as some proposals not yet realized. The exhibition also will include two installations produced in response to the gallery space itself.

As an artist, Irwin has often been considered theoretical, obscure, disconnected from life, but this exhibition will demonstrate that the opposite is true. Few artists working today are more involved with the practical and social implications of the role of art and the artist.

Available in conjunction with the exhibition, is a major new book photographically documenting these public site-conditioned projects with a substantial philosophical and explanatory text by Robert Irwin.