



For Immediate Release

Date: June 18, 2004
Exhibition: *Rita McBride: Theater Concrete*
Dates: September 12 – November 29,
2004
Reception: September 19, 2004 2 – 5pm
Gallery Hours: Thursday – Monday, 11-6pm
Admission: \$5 Suggested Donation

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Rita McBride: Theater Concrete

New York – SculptureCenter is proud to present *Rita McBride: Theater Concrete*, the first solo exhibition of the artist's work in an American museum. One of the first artists of her generation to examine elements of architecture and design through contemporary sculpture, she began her exploration in 1987 focusing on the often unspoken aspects of buildings -- parking structures, awnings, conduits, seating and HVAC units. *Theater Concrete* emphasizes a specific sculptural dialogue with the history of modernism and minimalism that asks many question of its future. The exhibition will be on view September 12 – November 29, 2004 with an opening reception on Sunday, September 19 from 2 – 5pm.

The core of the exhibition is *Arena* (1997), a modular tribunal structure that occupies the space between object and architecture. Creating a theatrical place within the presumably neutral exhibition space, *Arena* is a temporary and portable version of an ancient and monumental stadium-like structure that casts the viewer in the simultaneous role of actor and observer. *Arena* will play host to a series of programs and events including readings and performances.

McBride first began exhibiting her work in the late 1980s and has since established herself as an important voice on the national and international level. Since 1997, solo exhibitions of McBride's work have been held at Witte de With (Rotterdam), Weiner Secession (Vienna), Institut d'art contemporain (Villeurbanne, France), Kunstverein München, (Munich) among others. She is the recipient of a 2002 Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and was part of the Skidmore Owings and Merrill team for the World Trade Center competition.

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About SculptureCenter

SculptureCenter, an active contributor to New York's cultural community since 1928, is a non-profit organization that champions contemporary sculpture in all of its forms. SculptureCenter's mission is to engage with artists in evolving the definition of contemporary sculpture. SculptureCenter's programs identify new talent, explore the conceptual, aesthetic, and material concerns of contemporary sculpture, and encourage independent vision through solo exhibitions of mid-career and established artists. These programs include exhibitions, artist residencies, public art projects, publications, lectures and other public events intended to further the historical documentation and critical dialogue around contemporary art and sculpture in particular. In 2001, SculptureCenter purchased a former trolley repair shop in Long Island City, Queens. This newly renovated facility, designed by artist and designer Maya Lin, includes 8,000 square feet of interior exhibition space, offices, and outdoor exhibition space.

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For information or photographs, please contact Michele Snyder at 718 361 1750 or msnyder@sculpture-center.org.



Rita McBride
Arena, 1999