



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Terry Karson: Commons

September 20 - December 31, 2012

Artist-in-Residence: September 10-20, 2012

Artini Redux: Re-Fashion: September 20, 5-9 PM

Artist Reception and Gallery Talk: September 20, 7 PM

Missoula, MT / August 8, 2012 / Missoula Art Museum (MAM) / The installation *Commons* designed and installed by Bozeman, MT artist Terry Karson is an approach that deals with every point of view in a selected space. The surface is comprised of cardboard packaging, which has been meticulously collected, precisely cut, sanded, and assembled in a patchwork of panels and columns. Karson has a mosaic approach with a material that is not normally associated with mosaic. The resulting surface communicates not just a feeling of wear and tear but reveals a surface and form, which has withstood relentless pressure. The sanding removes the literal advertising and leaves all but a remnant of the image, perhaps random arrangements of advertising color. It is an abstraction.

The installation has been a long time coming. Karson visited MAM when the building itself was under construction and was inspired to create a site-specific work for the Faith Pickton and Josephine Aresty Gallery. Subsequently, Karson created a scale model of what would become *Commons* and appealed to MAM for an exhibition opportunity. MAM was too pleased to oblige in hosting this site-specific work by one of the regions treasured contemporary artists.

Karson never shies away from pushing the expressive boundaries, as is experienced in *Commons*. For Karson, the gallery presented specific features and challenges that he wanted to incorporate into his split-level installation. Entitled *Commons*, one immediately conjures a meeting place, an area for communal gathering. The presence of columns communicates a place of importance, of sustenance, where perhaps a temple or a bank once stood. And finally, the method of surface treatment consistently conveys the ancient.

MAM is no stranger to installations. An art form popular since the 1970's, MAM has hosted over 12 installations in the last 5 years. Each one has been site specific and created for a specific gallery of space. Installations provide viewers with the experience of being immersed within and surrounded by the art. *Commons* masterfully communicates this sense of immersion.

Karson will be here for a fall residency and available for interaction with community members of all ages during the installation of the work. His residency will occur the week prior to the September 20 opening, which will feature a gallery talk by the artist. A publication documenting the installation with a complete essay will accompany the exhibition.

The residency and publication are supported through the generosity of The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. MAM would also like to thank the Missoula Independent and Allied Waste a division of Republic Services for their generous support of this exhibition.

Contact: For more information, please contact the Missoula Art Museum at 406.728.0447, visit the MAM website at www.missoulaartmuseum.org or contact Stephen Glueckert, Exhibitions Curator, stevegl@missoulaartmuseum.org, 406.728.0447 x226.

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About MAM: FREE EXPRESSION / FREE ADMISSION. The Missoula Art Museum strives to engage artists and audience in the creative exploration of contemporary art relevant to our community, state and region. Founded in 1975 and accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1987, MAM showcases diverse and thought-provoking contemporary artwork from local and international artists. Gallery Hours: Tuesday- Friday, 10 AM - 5 PM, Saturday-Sunday, 12-5PM. Office hours: Mon-Fri, 9AM-5PM.