

CREATIVETIME

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JIM HODGES' 9-TON CAMOUFLAGE CURTAIN DISSOLVES REALITY AND REFLECTS A TRANSFORMED IMAGE OF LOWER MANHATTAN



Photo: Tim Hailand

JIM HODGES, *LOOK AND SEE*, 2005
MAY 5 - OCTOBER 30, 2005
RITZ-CARLTON PLAZA, BATTERY PARK

(March 9, 2005 New York, NY) In early February, nine tons of stainless steel arrived at the Hudson Valley foundry ready to be polished to a fluid reflective surface, molded into a curved S-shaped wall, laser cut, and painted black and white to complete the stylized four-tone camouflage pattern. On May 5, Jim Hodges' massive new sculpture, *Look and See*, will begin its six-month public view as part of Creative Time's *Art on the Plaza* at the Ritz Carlton New York, Battery Park City. The artwork will transport visitors on a sensual journey as they experience the warped refractive environment that fuses reflections of their own images with the opposing landscapes of skyscrapers and park, and raises questions about identity, artifice and nature.

Jim Hodges' *Look and See* is the fifth artwork commissioned for Creative Time's *Art on the Plaza*. The series explores contemporary sculpture's myriad manifestations, from LED lights and video to sound sculptures and performance, by internationally acclaimed artists Jim Campbell, Gary Hume, Zhang Huan, and Shirazeh Houshiary & Pip Horne.

Departing from the delicate, ephemeral materials that have characterized much of Hodges' work, *Look and See* is a bold and powerful sculpture that mixes the elusive with the solid. The substantial size (11.5' H x 50' L x 1" D) and weight (9 tons) of the sculpture are juxtaposed with the ideas inherent in the work. The curved form is exaggerated by the distorted reflections of the mirrored surface, and the carefully constructed camouflage voids bring the subtle and transient details of life into focus. The fleeting images and play of light mark the passage of time and cast kaleidoscope shadows on and around the sculpture.

Throughout his career, the artist has employed a wide range of materials including silk flowers, paper napkins, silver chains, shattered mirrors, and now for the first time, stainless steel, to create deceptively simple objects layered with complex meaning and symbolism. His work is also about discovery and the pleasure of seeing familiar things in new and different ways.

In *Look and See*, Hodges extends the ideas and materials explored in his earlier works (cut outs, camouflaged painted walls, and shattered mirrors) and pushes his practice into new terrain. By removing sections of the pattern and polishing the surface for *Look and See*, the artist penetrates the formidable steel wall, creating a vulnerability consistent with his work. The use of fragmented mirrored surfaces and camouflage, a historical manmade rendering of nature layered with cultural and political allusions, elicits a tremendous range of emotional associations. Hodges' fascination with camouflage – its basic pattern of light and dark– exists in its ability to conceal and alter our perception.

Look and See, created specifically for this public site, extends Hodges' fascination with urban and natural landscape and his belief that any material or situation may become the occasion for inventive transformation. The sculpture becomes an extension of the environment where reality dissolves and is replaced by a new disorienting vision of the individual merged with his natural surroundings.

THE ARTIST

Born in Spokane, Washington, Jim Hodges lives and works in New York City. He is represented by CRG Gallery, New York, and will have a solo show there in May 2005. He is also represented by Stephen Friedman Gallery London. His artistic practice includes photography, sculpture, printmaking, mural painting, and collage.

Hodges received a Bachelor's degree in fine art from Fort Wright College, Spokane, in 1980, and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Pratt Institute, NY, in 1986. He has exhibited extensively around the world. Recent solo exhibitions include the forthcoming *Captive D'Amour*, Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea, Santiago de Compostello, Spain, 2005; *Jim Hodges*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, Ohio, 2005; *Don't Be Afraid*, Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Mass, 2004; and *Jim Hodges*, Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York, 2003; Hodges has participated in many international group exhibitions including *Landscape Confection*, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH, 2005; *The Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 2004; and *Treble*, Sculpture Center, Long Island City, New York, 2004. His works reside in major collections including The Art Institute of Chicago; The Dallas Museum of Art; The Guggenheim Museum, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Centre Georges, Pompidou, Paris.

CREATIVE TIME

Creative Time, the leading presenter of new public art, has worked with artists for over 30 years to invigorate the urban landscape and enliven New York City. Projects have taken us all over the city from Times Square, the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage, Coney Island, the skies over Manhattan with *Tribute in Light* and cloud skywriting, to storefronts, milk cartons, deli cups, and billboards.

Art on the Plaza, launched in 2002, continues Creative Time's distinguished history of presenting art in Lower Manhattan from its earliest projects at 88 Pine Street, the U.S. Customs House, and the Battery Maritime Building to a decade of works presented through *Art on the Beach*.

SPECIAL THANKS

Creative Time thanks Jim Hodges and CRG Gallery, New York and Stephen Friedman Gallery, London for their generosity and support. We also thank Dick Polich and the staff of Polich Art Works, Rock Tavern, New York where *Look and See* was produced.

PARTNERS

In addition to *Art on the Plaza*, **The Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park** houses a cutting-edge art collection, The Millennium Partners Collection of Contemporary Art, which features commissions by forty contemporary artists. The Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park is a world-class, five-star hotel with condominium residences, sweeping park and waterfront views, and legendary amenities such as full-time staff, restaurants, and a fitness center. Located at Two

West Street and Battery Place, The Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park hosts The Skyscraper Museum at Battery Park City. **Millennium Partners**, a \$3 billion national real estate development company, built the Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park Hotel and Residences. Millennium Partners has developed similar mixed-use properties in Washington D.C., Boston, San Francisco, New York City, Central Park South, and Miami. For more information about The Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park, please visit www.ritzcarlton.com. For more information about Millennium Partners, visit www.millenniumptrs.com.

The Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) is a public benefit corporation created in 1968 by Governor Nelson Rockefeller and the New York State Legislature to develop a 92-acre landfill at the southwestern tip of Manhattan. At Battery Park City, parcels of land are leased to private developers who build in accordance with BPCA guidelines. A fine arts program brings significant works of art to public spaces throughout Battery Park City. Battery Park City is currently home to 13 works of public art by renowned artists such as Tom Otterness, Louise Bourgeois, Jim Dine, Martin Puryear, Brian Tolle, and many others. Battery Park City has 35 acres of public parks and gardens and cultural amenities such as The Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, the New York City Police Memorial, and the lauded Irish Hunger Memorial. More than 40,000 people work in the World Financial Center, which was built on land leased from Battery Park City. When development is completed, about 10,000 people are expected to live in Battery Park City. The BPCA's public art program contributes to making Battery Park City one of the most successful and exciting examples of planned urban development in the world. www.batteryparkcity.org.

DIRECTIONS

By Subway: Take the 4/5 to Bowling Green (last stop in Manhattan). Turn right onto Battery Place. Follow Battery Place to Little West Street; turn right. Hotel is on your left.
or

Take the 1/9 to Wall Street. Walk up Wall Street to Broadway, then left on Broadway, then right onto Battery Place. Follow Battery Place to Little West Street; turn right. Hotel is on your left.