

CREATIVETIME

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UGO RONDINONE

air gets into everything even nothing, 2006
get up girl a sun is running the world, 2006
February 1, 2007 – APRIL 30, 2007
RITZ CARLTON PLAZA, BATTERY PARK, NEW YORK



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(November 21, 2006 New York, NY) Ugo Rondinone will present a new project for Creative Time's *Art on the Plaza*, featuring two 17-foot-tall sculptures cast from 2000-year-old olive trees. Fabricated in aluminum and coated in white enamel, the sculptures are cast from trees found in the countryside outside Naples, the hometown of the artist's parents. In accordance with Italian law, the trees, which still bear olives, were cast on site in rubber; in the foundry, wax gave way to a final aluminum cast. Introducing metallic casts of this ancient tree to Lower Manhattan's modern metropolis, typically defined by manmade structures of glass and concrete, the artist furthers his investigation of themes of time and displacement, and the relationship between natural and artificial environments. The white trees, weighing a ton each, will complement New York City's winter landscape, establishing a discourse between the history-laden olive trees and their unusual urban context.

In Rondinone's words, "What interests me about the two 2000-year-old olive trees is the fact that once they are cast bare naked they become a memoriam of condensed time. Through a cast olive tree you can not only experience the lapse of real time, that is lived time, frozen in its given form, but through this transformation also a different calibrated temporality. Time can be experienced as a lived abstraction, where the shape is formed by this accumulation of time and wind force. If my work in general has a nonlinear

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approach to the world, then the system and concept of time, which has occupied my work since the beginning, gives me a certain sense of grounding.” Known for a poetic vision that often extends to the titles of his works, the artist has named the cast trees with his own short poems: *air gets into everything even nothing* and *get up girl a sun is running the world*.

Rondinone’s work draws from the geography of his family’s roots, as reflected in a tradition of tree installations that he began in 1996 and tree landscape drawings he’s produced since 1989. A slide show of the history of his these projects with a soundtrack *There Was a Bad Tree*, written and spoken by John Giorno, will be on Creative Time’s website, www.creativetime.org/ugo.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ugo Rondinone was born in 1963 in Brunnen, Switzerland, and lives and works in New York. After first exhibiting in 1985, he attended Vienna’s Hochschule für angewandte Kunst from 1986 to 1990, and came into prominence in Europe in the early 1990’s. Working primarily within an environmental and installation-based context, Rondinone often combines sound pieces, sculpture, drawing, photography, live actors, painting, and video.

Rondinone is recognized internationally, having held solo exhibitions at White Chapel, London (2006); Ausstellungshalle für zeitgenössische Kunst, Münster (2006); Galleria Civica di Modena, Modena (2006); Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne (2004); Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2003); Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2002); Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art in Herzliya, Israel (2001); Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome (2001); P.S.1, New York (2000); Galerie für zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig (1999); Kunsthaus, Glarus (1999); and other venues. He participated in the San Paolo Biennial (1996), the Berlin Biennial (1998), and the Istanbul Biennial (1999), as well as in group shows at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2006); the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (2005); the Hayward Gallery, London (2005); the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2004); P.S.1, New York (2004); the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2002); the Miami Art Museum, Miami (2001); Kunstmuseum, Wolfsburg (2001); Musée National d’Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2000); the Portland Art Museum, Portland (2000); and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2000).

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He is represented by Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich; Matthew Marks Gallery, NY; and Sadie Coles HQ, London.

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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.

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. In 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; it is currently home to 13 works of public art by renowned artists such as Tom Otterness, Louise Bourgeois, Jim Dine, Martin Puryear, and Brian

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Tolle,. Battery Park City has 35 acres of public parks, 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. The hotel is on your left. Or, take the 1/9 to Wall Street. Walk up Wall Street to Broadway; turn left onto Broadway, then right onto Battery Place. Follow Battery Place to Little West Street; turn right. The hotel is on your left.