

Press Release

Press Contact: Marshall Reese
Cel. 917 363-5216
risarano@rcn.com

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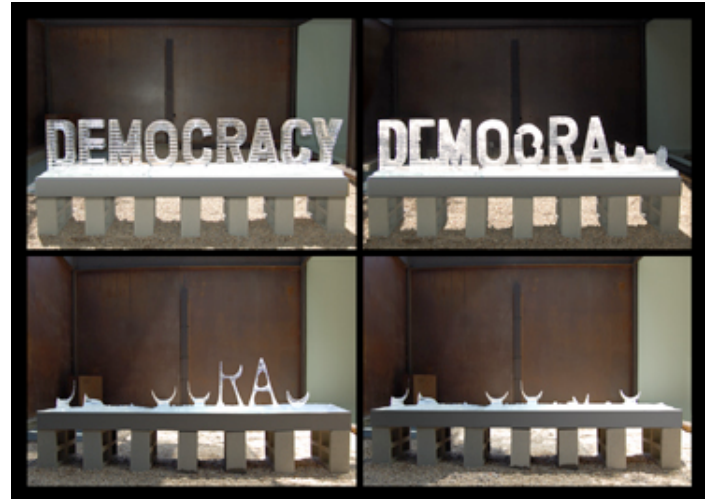
THE STATE OF THINGS

an Ice Sculpture by

LIGORANO/REESE

12 Noon, August 26 - 12 Noon, August 27

The front entrance of MCA DENVER
1485 Delgany Denver CO 80202
www.mcadenver.org
Tel. 303.298.7554



In response to the start of the Democratic Party Convention in Denver, the artist duo Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese (Ligorano/Reese), in conjunction with the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, present *The State of Things*, an ice sculpture of the word "Democracy." The art work is sited at the front entrance of the MCA DENVER. The artists call the piece "a temporary sculpture." It weighs almost 2,000 pounds and measures 36 inches tall and 180 inches in width. It will be installed at 12 Noon on Tuesday, August 26th and disappear within 24 hours.

"This ice sculpture," according to Ligorano, "dramatizes the perils facing Democracy after eight years of the Bush Administration and the disastrous impact his government has had on American democratic values and institutions. This piece focuses on the impact of the War on Terror - how censorship, surveillance, torture and the invasion of Iraq - has transformed American society."

"The sculpture is emblematic of our times," Reese adds. "Our democracy is wasting away at an imperceptible rate. What stands out - is that for the amount of time most people view art - 1 minute or less - the sculpture won't seem to change, yet by day's end, it will be gone - disappeared, like so much of what is happening to the values and institutions that make America a great country."

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For Ligorano/Reese, the sculpture is a highly mediated event, reflecting the prevailing discourse of the times. The artists will capture the sculpture's disappearance on videotape and digital still photography transforming the event into a multi-faceted performative installation. *The State of Things* will be available as a webcast the day after the disappearance to create a "viral projection." People from around the country will be able to witness the event, be able to use the internet video to project it on sides of buildings, in galleries, and other locations as a way to focus attention on the need to rebuild democracy in America. Later, in a documentary installation, footage of the event will be combined with street interviews of passersby, giving their views on democratic values, with the ice sculpture as a backdrop.

The following week, on September 1st, Ligorano/Reese will re-present *The State of Things* in St. Paul/Minneapolis marking the start of the Republican Convention. Ligorano says, "We chose to present the sculpture at both conventions to highlight the fact that preserving our democratic values is a bi-partisan issue. We want to engage people from all sides of the political spectrum." The sculpture in the Twin Cities will also be videotaped and streamed over the internet. The video from both conventions, then, will form the basis for a large-scale media installation at the American University Museum in Washington, DC, September to October, 2008.

LIGORANO/REESE

Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese have collaborated as Ligorano/Reese since the early 80's. Their work examines contemporary trends in society and the media through the manipulation of images and sound from print, television, the Internet, and radio. Their installations, limited edition multiples and artists books have been exhibited at Jim Kempner Fine Art, Kent Gallery, the Beall Center, the Cleveland Museum of Art, MIT MediaLab, Museum of Arts & Design, the Neuberger Museum of Art, and Lincoln Center. They have received fellowships and funding from the Jerome Foundation, The Puffin Foundation, NYFA, NYSCA, the NEA, Art Matters and been artists in residence at Montalvo, the MacDowell Colony and Djerassi Resident Artists Program.

BRUSHFIRE, A PROVISIONS PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

This project is part of BrushFire, a Provisions Public Art program with support from CrossCurrents Foundation. Provisions Learning Project pioneers the exploration of creative social change in exhibitions and public programs. Its online publications and research library have become a trusted source for information on breakthrough social change topics from around the world.

MCA DENVER

Following the European tradition of the *kunsthalle*, MCA DENVER is a non-collecting institution acting as an incubator for art and ideas, artistic exchange and dialogue. As Denver's first institution devoted entirely to contemporary art, MCA DENVER inaugurated its new environmentally sustainable facility designed by David Adjaye on October 28, 2007. The 27,000 square foot space, located in the Lower Downtown area, is on track to receive the distinction of Gold level Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The design of the building supports rather than defines the Museum's mission and demonstrates the Museum's commitment to sustainability. MCA DENVER marks David Adjaye's first public building in the U.S. as well as his first contemporary art museum worldwide.

MCA DENVER has five distinct galleries, three spaces for education, multiple sites for special projects/commissioned works and one live art and lecture hall as potential sites for work in all media, continuing the Museum's investment in exhibitions of artworks by local, national and international artists. These galleries and spaces have been envisioned as platforms for multi-level curatorial possibilities. The exhibition areas are thus seen as a curatorial rubric for interaction between artists, works of art, curatorial practice and interpretive dialogue.

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