

**THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PREMIERES NEW ARTUR ZMIJEWSKI FILM
DOCUMENTING COLLABORATION BETWEEN ARTISTS AND STEEL WORKERS**

Projects 91: Artur Zmijewski

October 28, 2009–February 1, 2010
Contemporary Galleries, second floor

NEW YORK, October 28, 2009—The Museum of Modern Art presents ***Projects 91: Artur Zmijewski***, featuring the premiere of the artist's newest film *Sculpture Plein-air. Swiecie 2009* (2009) shown in a continuous roughly 23-minute loop, in the Museum's Contemporary Galleries from October 28, 2009, through February 1, 2010. For the film, Zmijewski (Polish, b. 1966)—whose work investigates social norms by inventing or staging unusual scenarios for his subjects and documenting their reactions—invited seven artists from different parts of Poland to collaborate with steel workers in the city of Swiecie. Using facilities, equipment, and materials provided by a company that occupies the grounds of a former cardboard factory, they created public sculptures that were installed around the city. *Projects 91* is organized by Connie Butler, The Robert Lehman Foundation Chief Curator of Drawings, The Museum of Modern Art, and is part of MoMA's ongoing Elaine Dannheisser Projects Series.

Zmijewski frequently explores long-term trauma caused by historical and sociopolitical events. While his projects sometimes focus on marginalized or disenfranchised populations, he is also interested in widely held popular beliefs and attitudes that shape reality for everyone. Modeled after similar collaborations between artists and workers in Elblag, Poland, in the late 1960s, *Sculpture Plein-air. Swiecie 2009*, is inspired by utopian goals of breaking down class structures and bringing artmaking and industrial technology together. In restaging this moment in Poland's artistic and political history, Zmijewski highlights the social and political realities that separate people today and questions whether they can ever truly be overcome. This film is one in a series of staged workshops organized and documented by the artist in which the participants are invited to create art.

Zmijewski lives and works in Warsaw, Poland. He studied at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts (1990-95). He has had solo shows at the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane (2008); Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin (2007); Kunsthalle Basel, Basel (2005); and MIT List Visual Arts Center (2004); and he represented Poland at the 51st Venice Biennale (2005). He was included in group shows at the Istanbul Biennial (2009); Documenta 12, Kassel (2007); Kunst-Werke, Berlin (2006); CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco (2005); Manifesta 4, Frankfurt (2002); and Moderna Museet, Stockholm (1999). His work *Singing Lesson 2* (2002) is in MoMA's collection.

In addition to the *Projects 91* installation in the galleries, a selection of previous films by Zmijewski—*The Game of Tag* (1999), *Singing Lesson 2* (2002), *Patricia* (2007), *Yolanda* (2007)

and *Them* (2007)—will be screened in 90-minute programs in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2. Presented on selected dates from October 31, 2009, through January 6, 2010, the screenings are organized by MoMA's Department of Film.

Screening Schedule

Saturday, October 31, 4:00
Sunday, November 8, 5:30
Monday, November 16, 4:00
Monday, November 23, 4:00
Saturday, December 12, 6:30
Wednesday, December 16, 4:00
Monday, December 21, 4:00
Monday, January 4, 4:00
Wednesday, January 6, 4:00

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Connie Butler joined The Museum of Modern Art in 2006 as The Robert Lehman Foundation Chief Curator of Drawings. Prior to MoMA, she was a curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Los Angeles from 1996 to 2005. For MoMA, Ms. Butler has organized *Live/Work: Performance into Drawing* (2007), *Glossolalia: Languages of Drawing* (2008), *Pipe, Glass, Bottle of Rum: The Art of Appropriation* (2008), *Here Is Every. Four Decades of Contemporary Art* (2008), *Marlene Dumas: Measuring Your Own Grave* (2008), and *Paul Sietsema* (2009), and co-organized *Compass in Hand: Selections from The Judith Rothschild Foundation Contemporary Drawings Collection* (2009).

ABOUT THE ELAINE DANNHEISSER PROJECTS SERIES

Created in 1971 as a forum for emerging artists and new art, the Elaine Dannheisser Projects Series plays a vital part in MoMA's contemporary art programs. With exhibitions organized by curators from all of the Museum's curatorial departments, the series has presented the work of close to 200 artists to date. For further information on the series, including a listing of all *Projects* artists, please visit www.moma.org/projects.

SPONSORSHIP

The *Projects* series is made possible by the Elaine Dannheisser Projects Endowment Fund and by The Junior Associates of The Museum of Modern Art and the JA Endowment Committee. Additional support for this exhibition is provided by the Polish Cultural Institute in New York.

Sculpture Plein-air. Swiecie 2009 appears courtesy the artist, Foksal Gallery Foundation, Warsaw, and Galerie Peter Kilchmann, Zurich. The artist would like to thank Karina Dzieweczynska for her support of this project.

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Press Contact: Kim Donica, 212/708-9752 or kim_donica@moma.org

For high resolution images, please register at www.moma.org/press.

Public Information:

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019

Hours: Wednesday through Monday: 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Friday: 10:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesday

Museum Admission: \$20 adults; \$16 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; \$12 full-time students with current I.D. Free for children 16 and under. Free for members.
Target Free Friday Nights 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Film Admission: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D. \$6 full-time students with current I.D. (For admittance to film programs only)

The public may call 212/708-9400 for detailed Museum information. Or visit www.moma.org.