

The Museum of Modern Art

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PROJECTS: CARL ANDRE

"Waterbodies," a group of works by Carl Andre placed in the east pool of The Museum of Modern Art's Sculpture Garden, will be on view there from April 12 through May 13 as one of the Museum's Projects exhibitions devoted to work by contemporary artists.

"Waterbodies" consists of small pieces of metal scavenged by the artist from the streets of New York. The individual units are similar in configuration to units employed by Andre in previous work-- squares, rectangles, lines. Like units are grouped into individual works, with the arrangements of the units being the simplest possible suggested by the materials and the place.

The Museum's pool, which will be filled with water, provides a natural protection for the pieces, which are small, light and easily disarranged, while at the same time allowing visual access to the work.

Although these found units are considerably smaller than much of Andre's earlier work with, for example, bricks, metal plates, or large styrofoam blocks, they are not necessarily diminished in scale. Andre has said: "I have come to the conclusion that perhaps the only single thing that art has is scale-- something which has nothing at all to do with size. It has to do with things being internally consistent with their own parts." The problems posed with respect to scale by small units are demanding, according to Andre, as the artist cannot "hide behind size" to realize greatness of scale.

Andre has referred to his own history as an artist as a development from sculpture as form to sculpture as structure to sculpture as place. His earliest work involved carving vertical forms in wood. In the mid-60s came the important works with bricks, metal plates, styrofoam, bales of hay-- i. e. interchangeable, regular units which were

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aligned or arranged horizontally but not connected. Andre's work is not realized in a studio; the place in which a piece is done becomes a prime factor in the work.

Carl Andre has had numerous one-artist and group exhibitions around the world, and the Guggenheim Museum had a retrospective of his work in the fall of 1970. The Museum of Modern Art's current ground floor installation of recent work from its Painting and Sculpture Collection includes Andre's twelve-foot square floor piece of 144 lead squares.

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