



MAD. SQ. ART 2009
MEL KENDRICK: *MARKERS*
September 17 – December 31, 2009
Presented by the Madison Square Park Conservancy



The Madison Park Conservancy's Mad. Sq. Art program is pleased to present *Markers*, a group of five new cast concrete sculptures by Mel Kendrick installed on the central axis of the Oval Lawn of historic Madison Square Park.

MARKERS

The five new pieces that make up the *Markers* installation in Madison Square Park are at once radically new and quintessentially Kendrick; on the one hand a bold departure from the artist's characteristic use of wood as his primary medium, on the other hand a natural evolution of the formal motifs and self-evident process that have become synonymous with his work.

Since the mid-1970s, Kendrick has developed a reputation for sculptures born of the play between addition and subtraction, destruction and creation. In Kendrick's hands, blocks of raw wood are sliced and gutted, their interiors ingeniously reconfigured and reconstituted atop the remnant shell of the wood block from which they originated.

In *Markers*, Kendrick applies the same aesthetic and procedural methods to cast concrete. The black and white concrete is poured in layers, a new process and new material for the artist. For Kendrick, ever the process-oriented sculptor, these striations and the rippling surfaces contain the fossil memory of the actions taken over time. The sources for the *Markers* works vary widely, from the black and white marble found in Gothic Italian Cathedrals such as Siena, to the simplest methods of marking: placing one object on top of another. Their location in Madison Square Park also references the numerous monuments installed throughout New York City park system.

MEL KENDRICK

Mel Kendrick was born in Boston, MA and lives and works in New York City. He received a B.A. from Trinity College in Hartford, CT and a M.A. from Hunter College in New York. For more than three decades Kendrick has been producing a body of work that reveals an obsessive appreciation for the intricacies of his material and highlights an engaged and laborious creative process. The works that result constitute a philosophical, rather than formal abstraction; deftly deploying a variety of techniques, forms and color treatments to address themes of wounding and repair, interiority and externality, positive and negative volume.

Kendrick has exhibited extensively and to great acclaim since the mid-1970s at institutions including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York and the Brooklyn Museum, New York. His work is included in many significant public collections, including those of the Art Institute of Chicago; the Brooklyn Museum; the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Museum of Modern Art; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and the Whitney Museum of American Art. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, most recently the Francis J. Greenburger Award and the Academy Award for Art from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is represented by David Nolan Gallery.

MAD. SQ. ART

Mad. Sq. Art is the free gallery without walls presented by the Madison Square Park Conservancy in the historic 6.2-acre park located at 5th Avenue and 23rd Street. In 2009, Mad. Sq. Art has also exhibited *The Park*, a site-specific series of short films by Shannon Plumb, and *Flooded Chambers Maid*, a mixed media installation by Jessica Stockholder. Exhibitions are on view during park operating hours: 6:00 AM - 12:00 AM daily.

Major Support for Mad. Sq. Art is provided by Founding Partners Agnes Gund and Anonymous. Substantial support is provided by Ronald A. Pizzuti, Toby Devan Lewis and the Henry Luce Foundation. Support for *Markers* is generously provided by David Nolan Gallery, Jill and Peter Kraus, Gail Monaghan, Francis Williams, Raymond Leary and Melva Bucksbaum, Wynn Kramarsky and Ted Poretz. This project is supported in part with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. Mad. Sq. Art is made possible by the leadership and generosity of the many friends of the Madison Square Park Conservancy.

MADISON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY

The Madison Square Park Conservancy, a public/private partnership with New York City Parks & Recreation, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping historic Madison Square Park bright, beautiful and full of free cultural programs. For more information, please visit madisonsquarepark.org.

Please direct all press inquiries to:
Sam Rauch
Art Coordinator
Madison Square Park Conservancy:
+1 212.538.7042
srauch@madisonsquarepark.org