



MONUMENTA 2008

RICHARD SERRA: *PROMENADE*

GRAND PALAIS (PARIS)

May 7 - June 15, 2008



MARCH 5, 2008, PARIS --

Following the widespread public attention and critical success of MONUMENTA's inaugural edition in 2007, American sculptor **Richard Serra** is poised to unveil a new work in the central nave of the 145,000 square-foot Grand Palais, just off the legendary Champs-Élysées. Evocatively titled *Promenade*, the sculpture comprises a series of five individual steel elements, each measuring almost 60 feet high and weighing over 70 tons.

2008 marks the second annual MONUMENTA, a presentation of new work in the Grand Palais by a leading international artist. Richard Serra follows Anselm Kiefer, who participated in 2007, and precedes Christian Boltanski, scheduled for MONUMENTA 2009. For six weeks this Spring, the domed, sky lit Grand Palais will provide a striking backdrop to Serra's signature steel sculptures. In spring 2007, MONUMENTA drew more than 135,000 visitors over the course of less than five weeks, for an average of 3,800 visitors per day.

Bold and majestic, tall and thin, *Promenade* plays off the contrasts offered by the aerial glass-and-steel latticework of the Grand Palais. In offering a unique experience that challenges visitors' perceptions of balance and gravity, Serra posits the human scale against the monumental – art against architecture. Sixty feet high and only inches wide, the piece will seem precariously installed in the great dome of the building. Serra's *Promenade* has been described as a whole-body experience, a confrontation with space through sculpture, which should touch every visitor in a unique way.

About Richard Serra: A Sculptor without Bounds

For the last 30 years, Richard Serra (born 1939) has been a major figure in American sculpture. His monumental steel sculptures have defined a strand of Minimalism in which the production process and the dialogue between the work and its environment are brought into sharp relief. Celebrated for his mastery of spectacular and unconventional perspectives, Serra creates curved ellipses, voluptuous torques and ambitious verticals in a variety of site-specific environments. Working with industrial materials and particularly complex engineering techniques, Serra is engaged in an artistic practice that regularly challenges the physical and material power of sculpture. His work frequently reaches impressive dimensions. By entering the works and walking around them, visitors are forced to experience them almost viscerally, through a dizzying relationship with the sculpture and the space it occupies.

About MONUMENTA

MONUMENTA 2008 is curated by Alfred Pacquement, Director of the Musée National d'Art Moderne (Centre George Pompidou), a post he has served since 2000. Director of the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume from 1990 to 1993, and director of visual arts for the Ministry of Culture and Communication from 1993 to 1996, Pacquement served as Director of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts from 1996 to 2000. In September 2000 he was appointed as director of the Musée National d'Art Moderne at the Centre Georges Pompidou. The curator of numerous exhibitions in France and around the world (including *60/72: Twelve Years of Contemporary Art in France*, at the Grand Palais in 1972, and *Richard Serra* at the Centre Pompidou in 1983), he is also an art critic and art historian.

Conceived for a wide audience, MONUMENTA offers an exceptional range of visitor services. With the help of the event's web site, on-site docents, free audio-guides, cultural programs (included in the price of entry) and educational workshops, adults and children are invited to experience *Promenade* individually, at their own speed. An integrated curriculum is being developed for teachers designed to connect the artist's work to classroom activities. Lectures, performances and screenings will also be presented to provide context and relevance for Serra's work in fields such as music and dance.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue (co produced by CNAP and the Centre Pompidou), and a DVD (co produced by CNAP, Centre Pompidou and CarsonProd) which will recount the 2008 MONUMENTA adventure from its inception through installation. Both the CD and the catalogue will be available for purchase in conjunction with the exhibition's opening.

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Listing Information

- What:** MONUMENTA 2008 -- Richard Serra: *Promenade*
- When:** May 7 - June 15, 2008
- Where:** Grand Palais Nave – Main Entrance: Avenue Winston Churchill, 75008 Paris
- Hours:** Monday & Wednesday: 10 am - 7 pm; Thursday - Sunday: 10 am - 11 pm
Closed Tuesday
- Access:** Metro lines 1, 9, & 13 to Franklin Roosevelt or Champs-Élysées-Clémenceau;
Bus lines: 28, 32, 42, 72, 73, 80, 83 & 93
- Admission:** 4 Euros (approximately \$5.75); 2 Euros for students and seniors
FREE access to MONUMENTA's related cultural programs included with price of admission
- Groups:** Guided tours (up to 30 people): 200 Euros, Self-guided groups (up to 30 people): 80 Euros
- Public Info:** Phone: (011 - 33 - 0) 1 - 45 - 26 - 18 -12 www.monumenta.com
- Cultural Partners:** Ministry of Culture and Communication (Visual Arts Division), Centre National des Arts Plastiques, Réunion des Musées Nationaux, Etablissement public du Grand Palais des Champs-Élysées.

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