

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH, 2003

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DANIEL WHEELER: YOU ARE HERE

March 13 – April 24, 2004

Gallery tour with the artist Saturday, March 13, 3 pm

Reception for artist, Saturday, March 13, 4 – 6 pm

Public performances Saturday, April 3 and 17, 7 pm

LOS ANGELES, CA —The **Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art + Design** is pleased to present ***You are here***, an ambitious, large-scale, experiential installation created by Los Angeles artist **Daniel Wheeler**. Viewers encounter limited vantage points and prescribed perspectives as they explore the 1930s yellow-tiled bathroom with sealed fixtures, travel through the amber-lit tunnel into an oversized yurt and climb the metal rib-cage ladder to look down upon a profound and wry interpretation of the human body. From a different direction, viewers see the body of the sculpture from the ground and can only view the activities on the inside of the body via live-feed monitors in a room reminiscent of an operating theater or security booth. This interactive work explores the complexities of existing in a physical body. Inside and outside, viewers never experience the installation in its entirety; it is the sum of its parts.

If the body is the first actor and “prime mover” in Wheeler’s art, the ultimate protagonist is the human imagination, which is the true locus of discovery, perception, and knowledge. – Howard Fox, Curator of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Daniel Wheeler has been active in the Los Angeles art scene for the last twenty years and this is one of his most significant works. ***You are here*** addresses conflicting issues of privacy vs. security, mobility vs. immobility, and absurdity vs. profundity. He approaches these ying/yang topics both critically in terms of aesthetics and social/political concerns as well as in an intuitive, playful and adventurous process.

You are here questions the idea of self as defined by physical, psychological, or temporal boundaries. On the way in, it references modern and primitive architecture, theater, medical procedures and surveillance techniques. The viewer’s active participation can run the gamut from observer to observed, from spectator to performer, from physical presence to electronic image. —Daniel Wheeler

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Performances: Daniel Wheeler is conducting two public performances in his installation *You are here* with Los Angeles based artist Liz Young on Saturday April 3 & 17, 7pm. The performances are free, but space is limited. Please RSVP by March 30 by calling 310.665.6909.

Daniel Wheeler was born in New Haven, Connecticut in 1961 and has lived in Los Angeles since 1984 when he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture from Brown University. In 2001, he received a City of Los Angeles Visual Arts Award (COLA Grant) and his work has been critically acclaimed in many periodicals including the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Sculpture Magazine*. His artwork resides in many prestigious public collections on the West Coast including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Henry Art Gallery, Seattle; Laguna Art Museum; and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. He has also won awards for his set design for the Diavolo Dance Theater. More information about Daniel Wheeler can be found at his website www.bigobjects.com.

Location: Otis College of Art + Design, 9045 Lincoln Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Parking: Free visitor parking inside gate at the La Tijera entrance and on the street

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm. Closed Mondays

Gallery Admission: Free

Information: 310.665.6905, galleryinfo@otis.edu, www.otis.edu

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