

SculptureCenter

Make

It

Now

sculptureC

**New Sculpture
In
New York**



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"Make It Now. Sculpture in New York" Sculpture Center, L.I.C., NY, 2005 p.32,70&71(catalog)

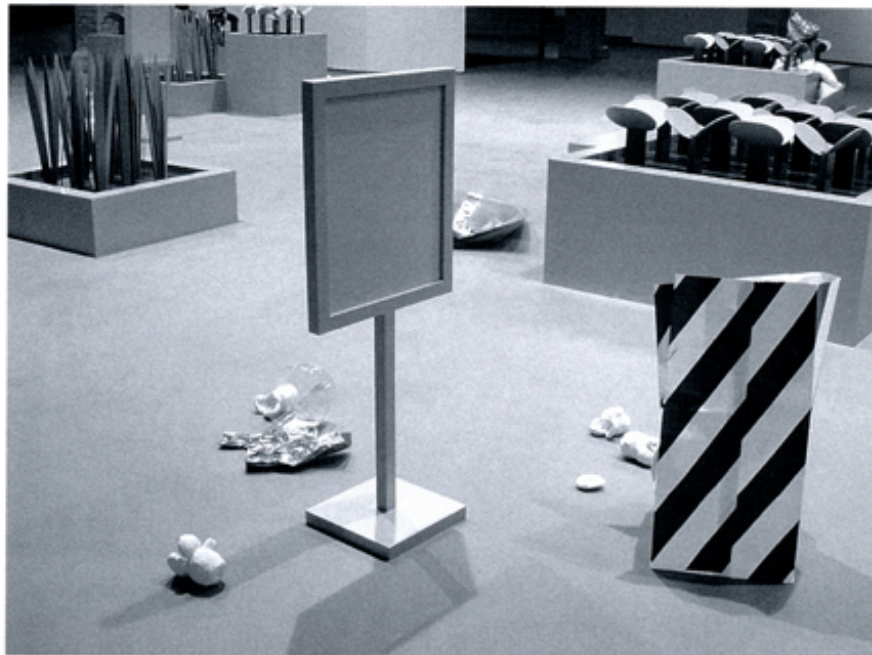
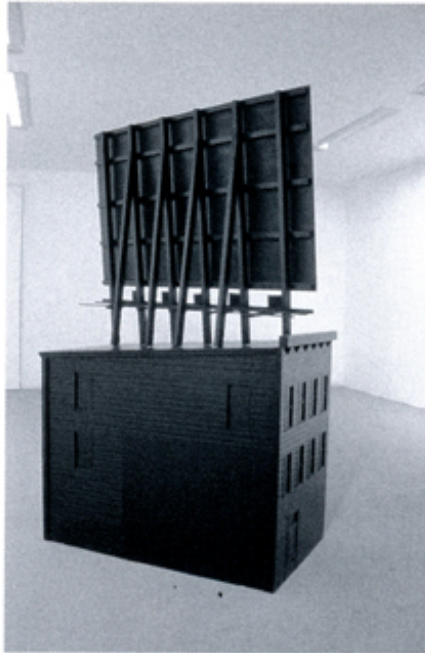
Ester Partegàs

b.1972, Barcelona, Spain

While many have come to accept the firm grip of capitalist consumption in our daily lives, Ester Partegàs explores the boringly ordinary manifestations of this facet of contemporary life. Like many of the artists in this exhibition, Partegàs works in multiple media and freely crosses disciplinary boundaries. Her series of drawings *Detours* (2001–03)—blown up copies of fictional sales receipts—are psychologically charged interior monologues that mark our desirous consumption as fact and residue of our daily existence. Likewise, her installations, often representations of common types of public spaces—a miniature airport lounge or ATMs surrounded by a corporate sitting garden—are identified by their stripped down forms suggesting an emptiness and therefore a placelessness. They are uncanny, theatrical spaces that simultaneously mimic and examine these public spaces and their implications for our collective values. At SculptureCenter, Partegàs's *Monument to the Truth* (2005) is a pile of anonymous materials covered by a bright blue tarp, announcing itself as “under construction” in the building's courtyard entrance. Monumental in scale, the work is less a statement of relativism than a critique of the system of meaning that can be imposed through scale and might.

Her other contribution to *Make It Now, The Most Important Things* (2004), likewise questions the investment in the material object. This industrially created neon sign, Partegàs's second sculptural incarnation of the phrase—another was a two foot square Post-It note made of steel—is hung high like a public advertisement. But unlike a flashy ad, the neon slowly fades on and off, its gentle cyclical pattern further underscoring the ephemerality of, well,...things. —FS

Ester Partegàs earned an MFA at the Universitat de Barcelona in 1996 and studied at the Hochschule der Künste, Berlin from 1996–98. One-person exhibitions of her work were presented at Galeria Helga de Alvear, Madrid (2005, 2001); Foxy Productions, New York (2004); Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, Buffalo, New York (2003); and Rice University Art Gallery, Houston (2002). Her work has been included in numerous group exhibitions such as Some Exhaust, Lehmann Maupin Gallery, New York (2004); Outer City, Inner Space, Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, New York (2002); and Brooklyn!, Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art, FL (2001), among others.



left to right, top to bottom

Black House, 2000–03. Painted wood. 55" x 43" x 23"

Samesation, 2002. Matboard, wood. 1,600 sq. ft space. Courtesy of Rice University Art Gallery, Houston, TX

Dreams are more powerful than nightmares and vice versa, 2003. Enamel on wood, paper, plastic, acrylic. Dimensions variable

All images courtesy of the artist, except when noted

