



21c Museum Commissions a Massive Site-Specific Installation To Be Presented Free of Charge in Downtown Louisville

Created by Local Artist Ezra Kellerman, *Nineveh* is on View September 16 – October 17 at the Cressman Center for Visual Arts

**Free Public Opening Reception on September 16 from 6 to 8 pm
Free talk by the Artist on October 2 at 5:30 pm**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (September 14, 2009) --- 21c Museum has commissioned a new large-scale, site-specific installation that will be on view free of charge in downtown Louisville beginning September 16. The work, entitled *Nineveh*, is comprised of 50 massive sculpted slabs of soil and grass suspended in mid-air. The hanging forms are arranged with narrow gaps between the blocks to serve as passageways through which visitors can navigate.

Created by Louisville-based artist Ezra Kellerman, the commission is part of 21c Museum's ongoing commitment to supporting the work of regional artists, as well as presenting pieces by artists of international renown. *Nineveh* will be installed throughout the four galleries of the Cressman Center for Visual Arts located at 100 East Main Street, a short walk from 21c. 21c Museum commissioned the new work for exhibition during the IdeaFestival, which takes place in Louisville September 23 through 26. The IdeaFestival, founded in 2000, is a three-day event that brings together leading and highly diverse thinkers from across the nation and around the globe to explore and celebrate innovation, imagination, and new ideas.

Nineveh examines our role as one element in a vast ecological system. As people walk between the hanging plateaus along the passageways—which are only wide enough for one person to pass—they will frequently encounter other visitors and must collaborate on how to make their way. The public literally becomes part of the work, illustrating through their negotiations the cooperation that is necessary for humans to live with and sustain the environment.

The plateaus—some of which are up to eight by sixteen feet in dimension—appear to be solid blocks of earth, but are actually hollow forms with a thin layer of soil on their surface. Kellerman achieved the continuous

undulating form by pouring latex over a frame filled with inflatable balls, then removing the balls after the latex had hardened. The resulting blocks were then seeded and left outside to enable grass to sprout and grow. All the materials used in *Nineveh* are biodegradable and will deteriorate naturally after de-installation.

Ezra Kellerman received his MFA from Louisiana State University and lives in Louisville. He has twice instructed and assisted at the Museum of Steel Sculpture at Coalbrookdale, England and has exhibited in several group and solo shows in England, Kentucky, and Louisiana.

21c Museum is North America's first museum dedicated to collecting and exhibiting contemporary art of the 21st century and is part of 21c Museum Hotel located in Louisville's arts and theater district. The exhibitions and installations of the museum weave throughout the hotel and the surrounding streetscape, with works of art filtering into both public space and unexpected places.

The 21c Museum Hotel—which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week—features permanent installations and special exhibitions of works by both emerging and established artists, including Bill Viola, Tony Oursler, Sam Taylor-Wood, David Levinthal, Yinka Shonibare, Judy Fox, Chuck Close, Alfredo Jaar, and Kara Walker.

The Cressman Center for Visual Arts is part of the University of Louisville's Department of Fine Arts Allen R. Hite Institute. The mission of the Cressman Center for Visual Arts is to educate, engage, and excite the community through the visual arts. Located in downtown Louisville, the Cressman Center hosts exhibitions from local and regional artists as well as traveling exhibitions. Covering 12,000 square feet, the Cressman Center is the home of the department's glass program featuring a hotshop and cold working studios, sculpture studios and shops, seminar room, and galleries.

Hours for the exhibition are:

Wednesday through Friday, 11 am to 6 pm

Saturday, 11 am to 3 pm

Special Programs:

The following free public events will be held in conjunction with the installation

Public Opening Reception, September 16, 6 to 8 pm

Talk by artist Ezra Kellerman, October 2, 5:30 pm

IdeaFestival (IF) The IdeaFestival is a unique non-linear program that stretches people's horizons and promotes breakthrough thinking, using multiple venues to showcase, discuss and connect important ideas in science, the arts, design, business, film, technology, education, and other disciplines. The Festival is designed to appeal to a broad cross-section of people—with presenters selected for their ideas,

For more information, visit www.21cmuseum.org or www.21cmuseumhotel.com

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