

WHITNEY

Press Release

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MARK BRADFORD RECEIVES 2006 BUCKSBAUM AWARD

Award includes \$100,000 and a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum

April 28, 2006 – Trustee Melva Bucksbaum and Adam D. Weinberg, the Whitney’s Alice Pratt Brown Director, have announced that Mark Bradford is the recipient of the 2006 Bucksbaum Award. The \$100,000 award is given every two years in recognition of an artist, chosen from the Whitney Biennial, whose work demonstrates a singular combination of talent and imagination and who has made or promises to make significant contributions to the visual arts in the United States. The artist selected is considered by the jurors to possess the potential to make a lasting impact on the history of American art, based on the excellence of past work as well as their work in the Biennial. In addition to receiving a \$100,000 grant, each Bucksbaum laureate is invited to present an exhibition at the Whitney.

The Bucksbaum jury included the Whitney’s director, Mr. Weinberg, and the 2006 Biennial curators – Chrissie Iles and Philippe Vergne – as well as three others: Eungie Joo, Director of CalArts Gallery at REDCAT; Russell Ferguson, Chief Curator, Hammer Museum, LA; and Francesco Bonami, Manilow Senior Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. The Bucksbaum jury selected Mr. Bradford from among the artists and collaborative teams included in the 2006 Biennial.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Mark Bradford was born in 1961 in Los Angeles, where he continues to live and work. His sculptures, installations, videos, prints, and large paintings explore the aesthetics and the economics of informal urban transactions. His multilayered and vibrant paintings are built up using commonplace materials such as translucent paper, string, magazine pages, tape, and colored stationery and often incorporate remnants of “street spam” advertisements. This collage practice recalls the torn-poster works of French *affichiste* artists such as Raymond Hains and Jacques de la Villeglé working in Paris in the 1950s and 1960s. In Bradford’s paintings, the strata of paper and

stains are mimicked rather than appropriated, and in works such as *Method Man* (2004), he achieves a radically different expression of urban pop culture that resonates with the scarified sidewalk culture of South Los Angeles. "Like those tagged up, repainted, tagged up, sanded, and repainted walls you pass everyday on the street, my process is both reductive and additive," the artist has said. The diverse demographics of Los Angeles create juxtapositions where one might find, as Bradford has noted, the "Mexican taqueria next to the black wig shop across the street from the Korean nail shop." Bradford's most recent canvases, such as *Temporary* (2005), with its intersecting maplike forms and colorful slabs, suggest a city seen from the air. *Los Moscos* (2004) distantly recalls Piet Mondrian's allusion to Manhattan in his late painting *Broadway Boogie Woogie* (1942–43). Yet Bradford's paintings, like the topography of South LA, are far less rectilinear. Evoking impermanence, they appear scattered, as if punctuated by vacant lots and plots awaiting development, making, as noted by Max Andrews in the 2006 Biennial catalogue, "a grittily beautiful and dynamically sensual exchange between the studio and the street."

ABOUT THE BUCKSBAUM AWARD

Melva Bucksbaum, a Whitney trustee since 1996, launched The Bucksbaum Award in 2000. Ms. Bucksbaum and her family have long been devoted international patrons of art and culture. In addition to being a trustee of the Whitney, she serves on the boards of The American Friends of the Israel Museum; The Drawing Center, New York; The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; and Save Venice. She is also on the Visiting Committee to the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, and the International Committee of the Tate Gallery, London. Since 1995, Ms. Bucksbaum has managed the Martin Bucksbaum Family Foundation. She is also a director of the Robert I. Goldman Foundation. Both Melva and her husband, Raymond Learsy, are co-chairs of the Anderson Ranch National Council, Aspen, Colorado.

The previous recipients of The Bucksbaum Award are Paul Pfeiffer (2000), Irit Batsry (2002), and Raymond Pettibon (2004).

ABOUT THE WHITNEY

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the leading advocate of 20th- and 21st-century American art. Founded in 1930, the Museum is regarded as the preeminent collection of American art and includes major works and materials from the estate of Edward Hopper, the largest public collection of works by Alexander Calder, Louise Nevelson, and Lucas Samaras, as well as significant works by Jasper Johns, Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Bruce Nauman, Georgia O'Keeffe, Claes Oldenburg, Kiki

Smith, and Andy Warhol, among other artists. With its history of exhibiting the most promising and influential American artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney's signature show, the Biennial, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in America today.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art:

Whitney Biennial 2006	Through May 28, 2006
Full House: The Whitney's Collection at 75	June 29–September 3, 2006
Mark Grotjahn	September 15, 2006–January 7, 2007
Picasso and American Art	September 28, 2006–January 28, 2007
Albers and Moholy-Nagy	November 2, 2006–January 21, 2007
Kiki Smith	November 16, 2006–February 11, 2007
Terence Koh	Opens January 19, 2007
Lorna Simpson	February 7–May 6, 2007
Gordon Matta-Clark	Opens February 22, 2007

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. For information, please call 1-800 WHITNEY or visit www.whitney.org

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria:

Andrea Zittel: Wagon Stations	Through June 18, 2006
Trace	Opens June 29, 2006

The Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria is located at 120 Park Avenue at 42nd Street. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sculpture Court Hours: Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sundays and holidays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Whitney Museum at Altria is funded by Altria Group, Inc. Admission is free. Free gallery talks are offered every Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 p.m. For further information, please call (917) 663-2453.