

WHITNEY

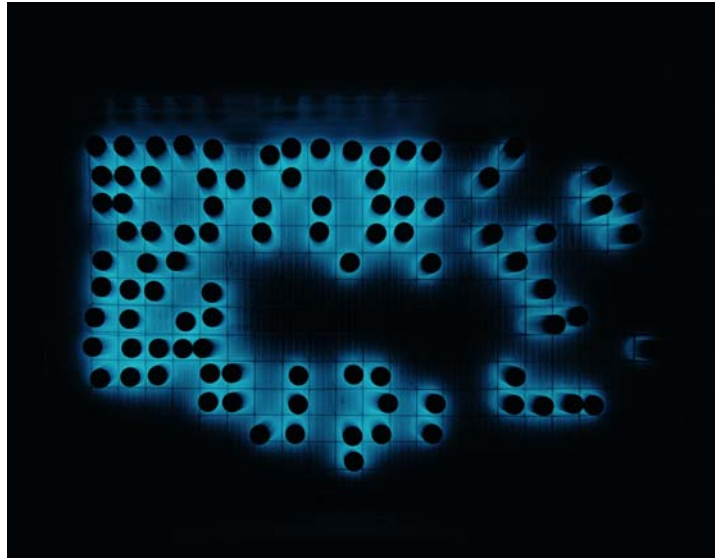
Whitney Museum of American Art
945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street
New York, NY 10021
www.whitney.org/press

Tel. (212) 570-3633
Fax (212) 570-4169
pressoffice@whitney.org

Press Release

Contact:
Whitney Museum of American Art
Stephen Soba, Kira Garcia
(212) 570-3633
January 2007

WHITNEY TO PRESENT TARYN SIMON: *AN AMERICAN INDEX OF THE HIDDEN AND UNFAMILIAR*



Taryn Simon, *Nuclear Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility, Cherenkov Radiation*, from the series *An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar, 2007*, Collection of the artist; courtesy Gagosian Gallery, New York

Nuclear Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility, Cherenkov Radiation
Hanford Site, U.S. Department of Energy, Southeastern Washington State

Submerged in a pool of water at Hanford Site are 1,936 stainless steel nuclear waste capsules containing cesium and strontium. Combined, they contain over 120 million curies of radioactivity. It is estimated to be the most curies under one roof in the United States. The blue glow is created by the Cherenkov Effect or Cherenkov radiation. The Cherenkov Effect describes the electromagnetic radiation emitted when a charged particle, giving off energy, moves faster than light through a transparent medium.

Beginning March 9, 2007, the Whitney Museum of American Art debuts a selection of photographs from artist Taryn Simon's newly completed body of work, *An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar*. For this project Simon, whose work often bridges the world of art and politics, documents spaces that are integral to America's foundation, its mythology, and daily functioning, but remain inaccessible or unknown to a wider audience. In compiling *An American Index*, Simon culls from the diverse domains of science, government, medicine, entertainment, nature, security and religion.

In her juxtaposition of image and text, Simon makes use of the annotated photograph's capacity to engage and inform the public. Transforming that which is off-limits or under-the-radar into a visible and intelligible form, she confronts the divide between the privileged access of the few and the limited access of the public. Her sometimes ethereal, sometimes cinematic compositions, shot with a large format view camera (except when prohibited), vary as much as her subject matter, which ranges from radioactive capsules at a nuclear waste facility to a great white shark held in captivity. Offering visions of the frequently unseen, and explanations for the unexplained, Simon captures the strange magic locked beneath the surface, at the foundation of the American national identity.

About the Artist

Taryn Simon was born in New York in 1975. She obtained her BA at Brown University. In 2001 she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in photography. Simon is best known for her highly acclaimed work, *The Innocents*, which documents cases of wrongful convictions in the United States and investigates photography's role in that process. Her photography and writing have been featured in numerous publications and broadcasts including *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, CNN, BBC, *Frontline*, and NPR. Simon's photographs have been exhibited nationally and internationally, at such places as P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York; Haus Der Kunst, Munich; Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. Her work is included in numerous permanent collections, among them the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

ABOUT THE WHITNEY MUSEUM

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 critical and public 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:

Kiki Smith	Through February 11, 2007
Photography and the Self	Through March 4, 2007
2D →3D	Through April 22, 2007
Modernisms	Opens January 19, 2007
Terence Koh	Through May 27, 2007
Uncontained	February 8–April 29, 2007
Gordon Matta-Clark	February 22–June 3, 2007
Lorna Simpson	March 1–May 6, 2007
Taryn Simon	March 9–June 24, 2007
Lincoln Kirstein	Opens April 25, 2007
Summer of Love: Art of the Psychedelic Era	May 24–September 16, 2007
Rudolf Stingel	June 28–October 14, 2007
Kara Walker	October 11, 2007–Feb. 3, 2008
Lawrence Weiner	Opens November 15, 2007
Demuth's Late Paintings of Lancaster	February 23–April 27, 2008
2008 Whitney Biennial	Opens March 2008

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:

Burgeoning Geometries	Through March 11, 2007
Matthew Brannon	Opens March 29, 2007

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.