

ARTISTS SPACE

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For Immediate Release

PROJECT SPACE:

Ben van Berkel: Mobile Forces

Selected by architectural designer and theorist, Greg Lynn

April 12 to May 24, 1997

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 12, 6 to 8 p.m.

Architectural designer and theorist Greg Lynn selects Dutch architect **Ben van Berkel** to create an installation in the Project Space at Artists Space which examines the effects that computer usage in diagrams and design techniques have on architecture.

Mobile Forces, van Berkel's installation at **Artists Space** is linked to a year-long research project that focuses on the notion that the diagram plays a seminal role in the design process and contains crucial assumptions at the basis of architecture. Although diagrams are not usually visible in the built structures, they are read by architects at an almost intuitive level. **Mobile Forces** consists of models, diagrammatic wallpaper and videos of animated computer designs, revealing the hidden creative process. By revealing both the architect's working process through diagrams and videos, and the finished product through models, the installation focuses on the transformative quality of architecture today. Van Berkel positions himself at the crossroads between the emerging theoretical and practical realities of high end technology, demystifying and challenging the limits of formalist architecture.

In a modern interview with Greg Lynn published in *El Croquis* van Berkel said "To me, the computer is a way of radically breaking with traditions. The mediation techniques enabled by the computer signify a complete overthrow of many architectural assumptions, from the typology of organisational structures, to the hierarchical order of planning a structure, ending with the details. The computer entails a radical rethinking of the valuations implicit in architectural design."

There is a strong link between the work of Ben van Berkel and that of architects prominent in New York such as Peter Eisenman, Stan Allen and Greg Lynn. Through different routes these architects have arrived at a similar point, and van Berkel's exhibition at Artists Space allows his work to be seen, for the first time, in a context that can examine these analogous approaches to architecture in New York.

In 1988 Ben van Berkel set up his own architectural practice with Caroline Bos in Amsterdam and is responsible for such projects as the **Erasmus Bridge** in Rotterdam and the **Piet Hein** tunnel entrances. In addition to projects actually realized, van Berkel is actively engaged in architecture's theoretical field, participating in international ideas competitions and lecturing at various universities in Holland, New York and London.

Concurrent with the exhibition *Mobile Forces*, van Berkel will participate in *Poldergeist, Contemporary Dutch Architecture*; a conference organized by Storefront for Art and Architecture. For details contact Paola Morrongiello at (212)431-5795.

MAIN GALLERY
STATION TO STATION

selected by Tony Oursler and Gary Simmons

April 12 to May 24, 1997

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 12, 6 to 8 p.m.

Artists Space presents STATION TO STATION in the Main Gallery, an exhibition of recent video artists from the New York area that explores the ephemeral connection between drawings and video.

Tony Oursler and Gary Simmons have drawn from the Artists File and their independent resources as arts school instructors to select artists whose work reflects their own interests – namely video and drawing. *Station to Station* mines the studios of nine New York area video artists to include a variety of objects such as drawings, notes and props as well as video. Through their inclusion of supplementary materials, Oursler and Simmons do not focus on the *mechanics* of the making of video, but follow the trace of ideas, chart ways of thinking. The installation of three 'stations' within the Main Gallery offers, in a very direct way, a view to the possibility for intimacy that is offered by both the medium of drawing and of video; drawing as a spontaneous, unmediated mark-making and video as an ephemeral line in time. The nine artists in the exhibition include: **John Brattin, Dan Cooney, Ethan Crenson, Sam Easterson, Scott Gregory, Maura Jasper, Ann Kugler, Les Leveque, and Kristin Lucas.**