

ARTISTS SPACE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MICHAEL SORKIN: MODEL CITY

Programs:

Artists Space
Exhibitions and Events

Artists Grants
Exhibition Funding

Artists File
N.Y.S. Slide Registry

Selected by Valerie Smith
Opening Reception: Thursday, January 19, 6-8pm
January 19 - February 18, 1989
Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 11-6

Michael Sorkin is an architect, writer, critic and designer living in New York. He explains his installation at Artists Space as follows:

"'Model City' is to be a large (approximately 15 x 15 feet) abstract model of a segment of an imaginary city of the future. Although its architectural scale is deliberately a little ambiguous, it will be on the order of an eighth of an inch to the foot. Thus, the proposed sequence of spaces should have not just a strong tectonic quality but a dimensional one as well: this is a city the viewer should be able to imagine moving through. The model will be built largely of wood, partially painted.

The abstraction of the model will also not preclude its ability to declare certain urban principles. For something over a year now I've been working on a 'constitution' for a utopian city sorting out a series of statutes that might govern its design. Although the model city would not be rigorous in its application of these notions, it would nonetheless embody many of its prospective characteristics. For example, the relationship of built to open space, the presence of water, the breakdown of the city into autonomous zones, the intersections of different urban textures, and certain relations of scale and use would all be suggested.

But, the main intention of 'Model City' is exploration. Presented as a research, as a work in progress, it won't (after the modernist model) propose to 'solve' the problem of the city, simply to inquire after new ways of conceiving of this large, complicated form. Freed from the problems of the over-particular, I hope I'll be able to take a real conceptual and formal leap forward."

This exhibition is the third in Artists Space's series of "Projects" and reflects Artists Space's ongoing commitment to conceptual architectural projects. This "Project" was supported in part by the New York State Council on the Arts.

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Artists Space is a member of the National Association of Artists Organizations (NAAO) and Media Alliance.