

Peggy Guggenheim COLLECTION

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Press Release

'XENON FOR THE PEGGY GUGGENHEIM' BY JENNY HOLZER

September 2 – 6, 2003

From 2nd to 6th September, during the 60th Venice Film Festival, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection will present a series of night-time xenon text projections on the Grand Canal by the American artist **Jenny Holzer**. Using the façades of Palazzo Venier dei Leoni (home to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection) and, opposite, Ca' Corner (seat of the Provincial Government and of the Prefecture of Venice) as "screens", a wide selection of Holzer's texts will be projected each night after dark. First appearing in the waters of the Grand Canal, the words will scroll upwards across the buildings before finally disappearing into the night sky. The project has been coordinated by Sandro Rumney and Art of This Century, in collaboration with Nicolas Hélon.

The relationship between the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and Jenny Holzer is long-standing, dating back to the 1990 Venice Biennale when Holzer was awarded the prestigious Leone d'Oro. The American Pavilion which hosted her critically acclaimed exhibition is owned and operated by The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. In 2001 Holzer presented to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection *Garden Bench*, a marble bench with inscribed text, which is now permanently installed in the museum's sculpture garden.

Since the late 1970s, when her aphoristic *Truisms* and her *Inflammatory Essays* were first posted anonymously around New York, Holzer's work has sought to challenge many assumptions about traditional art, especially in the context of public spaces. Her work has been shown in exhibitions and projects worldwide, including major solo exhibitions at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (1989); the 44th Venice Biennale (1990); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (1996); The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1997); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1999); Oslo Museum of Contemporary Art, Norway (2000), and Neue Nationalgalerie Berlin, Germany (2001).

Holzer has been working with the medium xenon since 1996. Projected in gigantic lettering at night, texts and statements are thrown onto urban spaces to create ephemeral images of extraordinary filmic beauty. Since her first projection onto the Arno riverbank in Florence, she has created projections for Rome and Vienna (1998), Rio de Janeiro and Venice (1999), Oslo, Lillehammer and Buenos Aires (2000), Newcastle and Gateshead (2000), Berlin (2001), Bordeaux, Monterrey and Paris (2001), Goslar, Germany (2002), Liverpool and most recently Cannes (2003) where projections lit up the night sky during the Film Festival.

Institutional Patrons: Banca del Gottardo, Ras, Regione Veneto

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