

*Press Release*

Bernar Venet: Monumental Works  
Port of San Diego

November 1, 2008 through October 31, 2009

**San Diego, California - For Immediate Release**

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**EXHIBITION SUMMARY:**

Scott White Contemporary Art, in cooperation with the San Diego Unified Port District is proud to announce a monumental exhibition of large-scale sculptures by world-renowned artist, Bernar Venet. The exhibition will open on November 1, 2008, and will run through October 31, 2009. This historic exhibition will encompass twelve sculptures that will be placed at key locations along San Diego's waterfront district as well as the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the San Diego Museum of Art, the San Diego International Airport, the Marriott Hotel & Marina and the Omni Hotel. This is the first exhibition of this caliber and magnitude to take place in Southern California, which will transform the landscape of America's Finest City into a world-class sculpture garden.

In addition, Scott White Contemporary Art has partnered with ARTS: A Reason To Survive in supporting their arts-based programs for children facing extreme crisis situations and internal and external personal challenges. A percentage of funds received in conjunction with the Bernar Venet Exhibition will go directly to ARTS. Since 2001, ARTS has served more than 25,000 children throughout San Diego County and Scott White Contemporary Art hopes to help many more by reaching a contribution goal of \$30,000.

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**ARTIST INFORMATION:**

Bernar Venet's sculptures have adorned other cities around the world, including Paris, Luxembourg, Geneva, Basel, Cologne, Brussels, New York, Chicago, St. Louis and Denver. His sculptures have been permanent installed in Norfolk, Nice, Berlin, Bergen, Shenzhen, Tokyo, New Ulm, and Toulouse, among others.

Simply stated, Venet's sculptures study variations of lines – specifically of curves. However, it is the scope of the work in its mass, concept and execution that makes Venet one of the most prominent and important living sculptors today.

Each series expresses different notions of Venet's interest in the mathematics of order versus chaos. The "Arcs" draw portions of a circle's circumference, each piece discerned by its title with a mathematical formula. *215.5° Arc x 21, 2005* scales at a height of 35 feet, and is comprised of 21 separate arcs that each draw variations of curves at 215.5 degrees. In contrast to the order of his "Arcs", Venet's "Indeterminate Lines" series conveys forms that are free, chaotic and mathematically undefined. This exhibition will include works from Venet's most important

series, including the *Vertical Arcs*, *Classic Arcs*, *Leaning Arcs*, *Straight lines*, *Random Combination* and *Indeterminate Lines*.

Bernar Venet was born in 1941 in Chatueat-Arnoux-Saint-Auban in the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence region of France. He studied at the Ville Thiole in Nice, and received training as a theatre set designer. Over the course of two decades, Venet explored every kind of art form, from painting, poetry, film and dance. In 1979, he was awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts. A decade later in 1989, he was awarded the *Grand Prix de la Ville de Paris*. Throughout the 1990's, Venet's notoriety and recognition continued and flourished. Most notably in 1994, he was invited by the then Mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac to create twelve monumental sculptures from his Indeterminate Line series, which were exhibited on the Champ de Mars. This exhibition would eventually mark the beginning of a world tour of his sculptures, which set into motion a series of international museum and citywide exhibitions, catapulting him into an internationally renowned artist.

As one of the world's most important and talked about artists today, Bernar Venet's sculptures have been acquired by museums such as The Museum of Modern Art, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, The National Gallery of Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Bernar Venet has also received commissions for sculptures permanently installed in cities such as Norfolk, Austin, Paris, Nice, Berlin, Bergen, Shenzhen, Tokyo, Denver, Neu Ulm and Toulouse. In the past year, Venet's solo exhibitions include retrospectives at The National Museum of Contemporary Art near Seoul, the Museum Küppersmühle für Moderne Kunst in Duisburg, and the Busan Museum of Modern Art, South Korea, as well as sculptures exhibited throughout the cities of Bordeaux and Metz, France.

In January of 2008, he was honored with the first exhibition of a single artist mounted by Sotheby's, which took place at the Islesworth Golf and Country Club in Windmere, Florida. And most recently, Venet received a personal invitation from the Board of Directors of the Venice Biennale to exhibit at the 53rd International Art Exhibition, from June through November of 2009. The San Diego exhibition will mark an important and critical benchmark in the artist's career, following the Sotheby's Islesworth exhibition, and preceding the Venice Biennale.

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## **EXHIBITION INFORMATION:**

The citywide exhibition of monumental works by Bernar Venet will encompass a vast and wide range collaborative effort between Scott White Contemporary Art and the Port of San Diego. The proposed sites for the installation of sculptures include the San Diego International Airport, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the San Diego Museum of Art, The Omni San Diego, The Marriott Hotel & Marina, Harbor Island, Seaport Village, Embarcadero Marina Park South & North and the Laurel Street "triangle".

For more information on this exhibition, its partners, or the artist, please contact Kathleen Crain at 619-501-5689, or email [info@scottwhiteart.com](mailto:info@scottwhiteart.com)

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