

SITINGS 2010

Museum as Action

The word “museum” derives from the Greek *museion*, meaning “seat of the muses.” Museums have long enjoyed complex relationships with artists — both as a source of inspiration and a locus of critique. The RISD Museum is deeply tied with this history. It was the site of Andy Warhol’s 1969 *Raid the Icebox I*, recognized as the precursor to museum interventions by artists. In that tradition, *Sittings 2010* invites you to celebrate and exploit the RISD Museum — its architectural idiosyncracies, collection, and the habits of museum visitation.

GUIDELINES

Sittings 2010: Museum as Action is an opportunity for Rhode Island School of Design degree candidates to create site-specific installations in The RISD Museum. The installations are to offer a comment on/response to the Museum spaces and /or its collection. Begun in 1995, *Sittings* fosters direct interaction between the Museum, students, and the public. The aim of this juried event is to encourage students to explore and celebrate the eccentricities of the Museum’s buildings and to provide them the experience of working in a museum environment. Two projects will be selected by the juror for implementation. The juror for the *Sittings 2010: Museum as Action* competition is **Spencer Finch, RISD MFA Sculpture '89 (<http://www.spencerfinch.com>)**.

The winning projects will receive a cash prize and implementation funds. The artists will have the opportunity to work with Museum staff during each phase of the exhibition process. The installations will be on view from February 26, 2010, through June 6, 2010. *Sittings* is funded by the Artist’s Development Fund of the Rhode Island Foundation.

CASH PRIZE: \$300

IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS: up to \$1000

HOW DOES THE COMPETITION WORK?

Who may participate?

Any RISD degree candidate may submit a proposal. Collaborations are welcome, and more than one proposal per entrant is allowed.

Where are the sites?

All proposals must be for new work designed specifically for one of the Museum sites identified on pp. 7 and 8. A Museum staff member will conduct **tours** of those sites on **Tuesday, September 22, 12:15 pm; Thursday September 24, 12:15 pm; Wednesday, September 30, 12:15 pm; and Friday, October 2, 12:15 pm.** These tours will begin at the front desk in **the Chace Lobby.**

How and when do I submit a proposal?

The Proposal Cover Sheet (last page) and detailed instructions (pp. 9-10) are attached. As described in the instructions, all entries must include a Proposal Cover Sheet, two narratives, budget, supporting visual materials illustrating the proposed installation, and 3 visuals (slides, photographs, video) of previous work. Submissions should be clearly identified as *Sitings 2010: Museum as Action* proposals and dropped off at either of the Museum's front desks (Chace Entrance or Farago Entrance) **by Friday, October 23, no later than 4:45 p.m.**

How is the winning project selected?

Evaluation of the proposals will be based on content (commentary on or response to the Museum and/or its collection), aesthetics (originality, sensitivity to site, use of materials) and the strength of the proposal (clarity of presentation, adherence to guidelines including physical feasibility for installation).

The juror will select a group of finalists. Finalists will be notified immediately and scheduled to meet with the juror to discuss their proposals in the Museum on Sunday, November 15. Two proposals will be selected for implementation.

Responsibilities of winning artists

The winning artists will enter into a contract with the Museum of Art specifying their mutual responsibilities. Artists will be responsible for installing and deinstalling their work under the supervision of the Museum's Registrar, Security and Installation staff. Winning artists **must meet with Museum staff to plan installation procedures. That planning meeting will be scheduled (by appointment) between November 16 and November 20 in the Museum.** Between January 25 and 29, 2010, by appointment a curator and a representative of the Museum's installation staff will visit the winning artists' studios to evaluate progress on the installations and advise on any outstanding implementation issues. **Additionally, before installation begins the artists will meet with Museum staff on Monday, February 22, (by appointment) to finalize details for installation.**

It is the responsibility of the winning artists to execute their projects as presented to the juror, making only those modifications required by the juror or the Museum staff. Modifications required by the juror after the selection of the artist must also be cleared with Museum staff.

Installation and Opening of Sitings 2010

Installation will be done during Museum business hours (9 am to 4 pm weekdays). Installation **must** begin on Monday, February 22, and be completed by 12 noon on Thursday, February 25.

A reception honoring the winning artists will be held in the Museum on Gallery Night, March 18, 2010.

Closing and Deinstallation of Sitings 2010 installations

The installations will remain on exhibit in the Museum through Commencement weekend (June 5-6). Deinstallation **must begin on Monday, June 7, 2010, and be completed by Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at 4 pm. The artists must remove their work from the premises by 4 pm, on June 8.** As with installation, deinstallation will be done during Museum business hours (9 am to 4 pm weekdays).

SITINGS 2010: Museum as Action

SCHEDULE

Please review the dates below to insure that you are available for the jury interview, installation planning meeting, installation, opening celebration, and deinstallation.

September 22, 2009	12:15 pm	Site tour (meet in Chace Lobby)
September 24	12:15 pm	Site tour (meet in Chace Lobby)
September 30	12:15 pm	Site tour (meet in Chace Lobby)
October 2	12:15 pm	Site tour (meet in Chace Lobby)
October 23, 2009	4:45 pm	Application deadline
November 15		Finalists interviews with juror
Week of November 16		Installation planning meeting by appointment
Week of January 25, 2010		Visit to winning artists' studios by Curator and Museum Installation staff by appointment.
February 22, 2010		Installation planning meeting by appointment, following which installation must begin.
February 25, 2010	12 noon	Installation completed
February 26, 2010		Open to the public
March 19, 2010	6 - 8 pm	Opening celebration
June 7, 2010	9 am - 4 pm	Deinstallation begins
June 8, 2010	9 am - 4 pm	Deinstallation complete

TO APPLY

1. Read guidelines carefully.
2. Familiarize yourself with available sites; **we strongly recommend taking one of the site tours (see page 2).**
3. Prepare proposal (Proposal Instructions, pp. 9–10).
4. Proposals must be received at the Museum by **4:45 pm, Friday, October 23, 2009.** Proposals must be submitted in a manila envelope labeled *Sitings 2010: Museum as Action* and left at either of the Museum’s visitor services desks (Chace Entrance or Farago Entrance).

GUIDELINES FOR SITINGS 2010: Museum as Action PROPOSALS

These guidelines have been established to insure the safety and security of the Museum’s visitors, collections, and staff as well as the physical integrity of the building. In your proposal you must demonstrate consideration for traffic flow, public safety, durability, and the unique structural qualities of the site you have chosen. Please read these guidelines carefully and bear them in mind as you investigate the sites and plan your piece. Proposals that do not comply with the guidelines are unlikely to be chosen.

1. Safety, Security, Access

The Museum of Art has a wide range of visitors which necessitates keen awareness on your part of potential hazards to children, the elderly, and the physically challenged. Likewise, the works of art in the Museum must be protected from potential hazards such as insects and unsealed liquids. Work that is harmful to the structure of the building or potentially injurious to visitors, collections, or staff is unacceptable.

Please take the following into consideration:

Small pieces that can be knocked over or stolen must be secured and/or stabilized.

Floor pieces that might be tripped over or pieces that have sharp or projecting edges will be reviewed with particular caution to insure safety and feasibility.

No work may be suspended from the ceiling.

Any hanging or fastening will be determined in consultation with the installation staff.

Harmful or potentially harmful or intrusive materials (e.g., lead, noxious materials) are unacceptable.

Potentially flammable materials will be evaluated on a case by case basis to determine if alternative materials or fire retardant be required. There cannot at any time be an open flame in the Museum.

Installations may not include unsealed liquids (e.g., running water).

Animals and plants may not be included in the installation. Edible materials that can attract insects may not be included in the installation.

Ambient sound that does not disturb staff, or intrude on visitors' experience of other nearby works of art will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Installations may not obstruct, or be attached to, any museum signage, security devices, smoke detectors, sprinklers, or sprinkler hardware.

2. *Materials and Installation*

Sitings 2010 installations are temporary. The means for installation and deinstallation must be clearly articulated in the proposal. **Provisions for removal of the work on June 7 and 8 and the subsequent restoration of the site to its original state must be addressed in the proposal.**

Implementation funds (up to \$1000) will be awarded based on written estimates and the final project budget. Funds cannot be directly dispersed to the student. All financial transactions will be facilitated by the *Sitings 2010* coordinator, and payments must be processed through the RISD Business Office.

Any costs related to installation and deinstallation must be reflected in the budget. Artists are responsible for acquiring their own installation materials and, if needed, electronic, audio/visual, or other equipment.

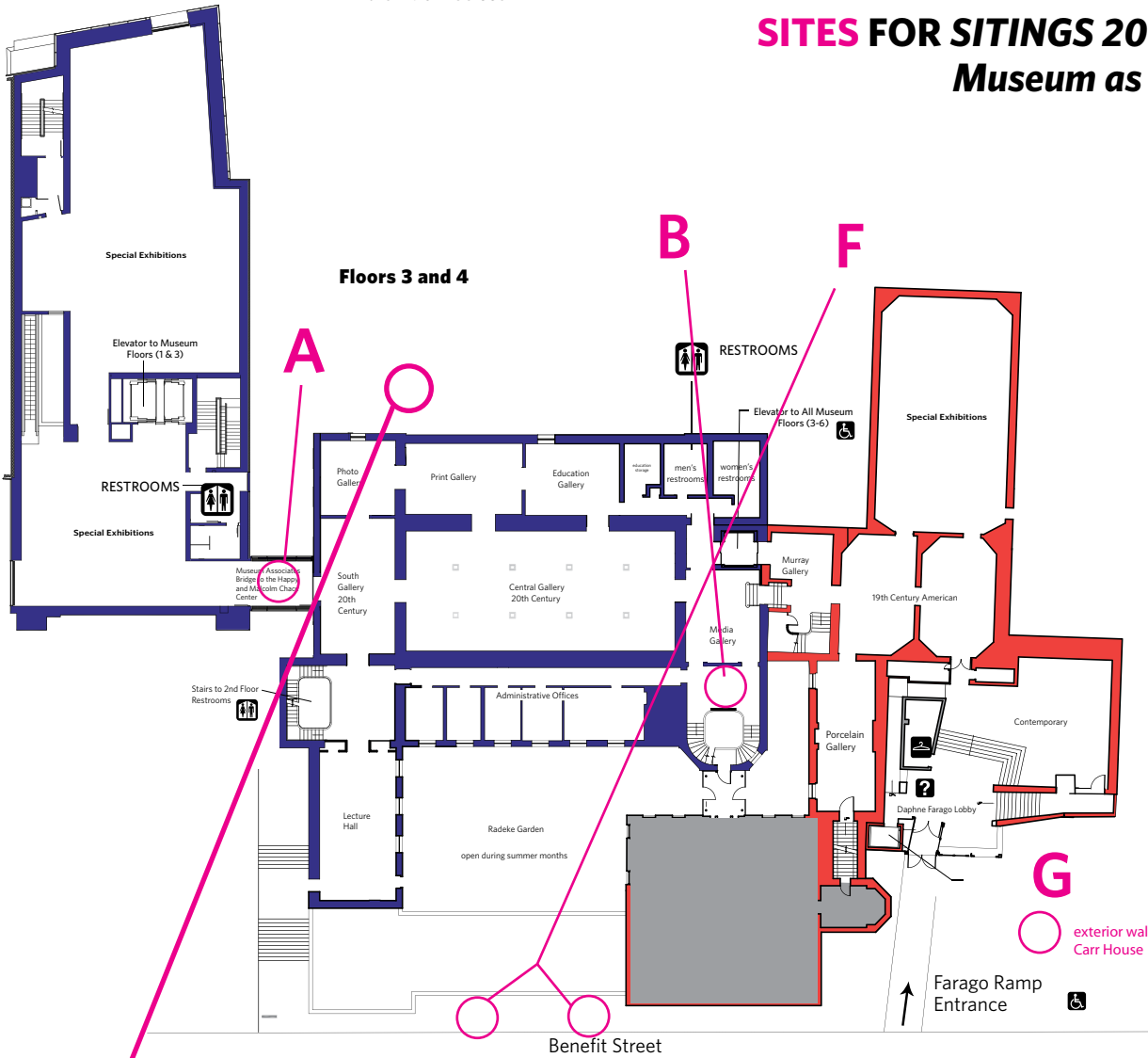
Before installation begins, artists must meet with Museum staff by appointment on February 22 to finalize installation plans. Installation **must** begin on February 22 and be completed February 25, 12 noon. Work must be done during normal Museum business hours, 9 am – 4 pm, weekdays only. Artists are responsible for installation and deinstallation; if required, up to 16 hours of hands-on *assistance* from the Museum's installation staff are available at the time the piece is installed. If necessary, the same amount of time will be available to assist in deinstallation on Monday and Tuesday, June 7 and 8, 2010.

QUESTIONS

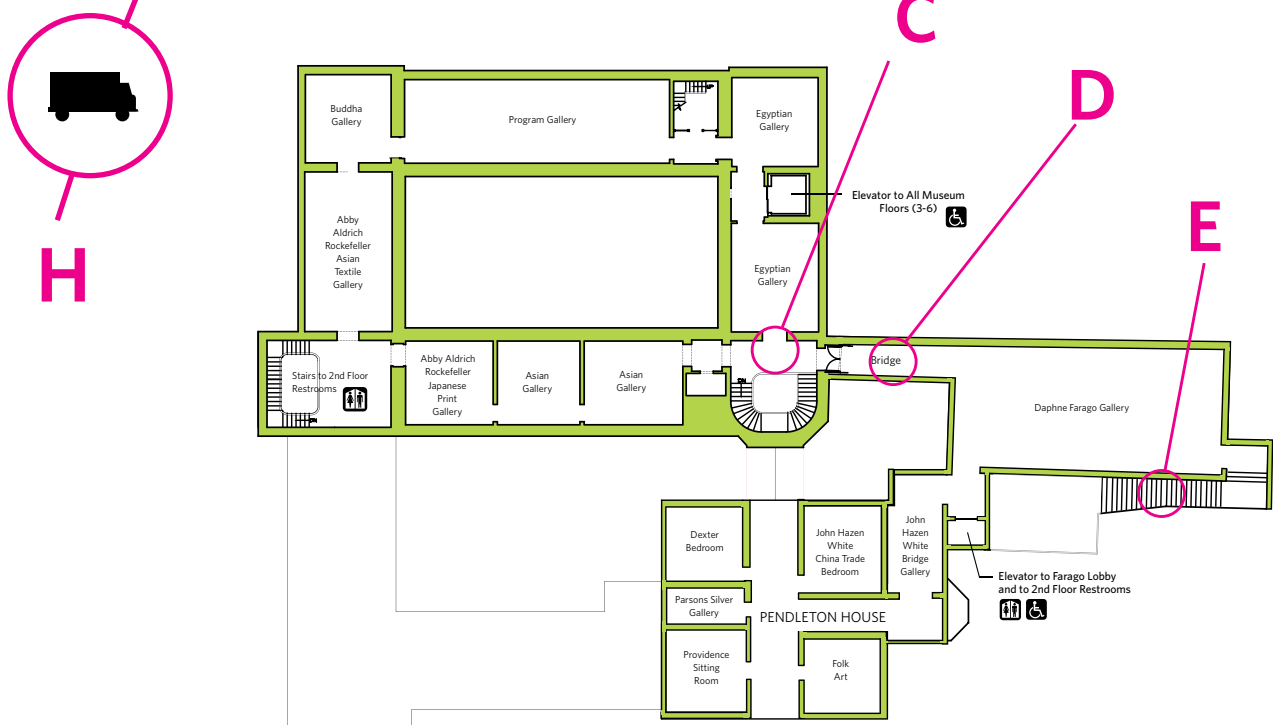
Please direct questions to the coordinator for *Sitings 2009*, **Deborah Wilde** (tel. 454-6532, email: dwilde@risd.edu). If you reach the coordinator's voice mail, leave a message with your name, your question, your telephone number, and the best time to reach you at that number.

SITES FOR SITINGS 2010

Museum as Action



6th Floor



SITES FOR SITINGS 2009

Participants are strongly encouraged to attend one of the scheduled site tours to learn the particulars about each designated site. Tours are scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 12:15 pm; Thursday September 24, 12:15 pm; Wednesday, September 30, 12:15 pm; and Friday, October 2, 12:15 pm. All tours begin in the Lobby of the Chace Center.

Chace Center, 3rd floor:

- A. Window area on both sides of the glass bridge (Museum Associates Bridge) between Chace and Radeke

Radeke Building, 3rd floor

- B. Media Gallery: the back of the freestanding video wall

Proceed up the stairs to the 6th floor of the Radeke Building:

- C. The landing at the entrance to the Egyptian Gallery
- D. Window area on both sides of Glass Bridge between the Radeke Building and the Farago Wing

The following may be seen from the Daphne Farago Gallery and from the Farago Entrance Area:

- E. Stairs from Farago Lobby up to the Daphne Farago Gallery
- F. The area in front of the Radeke Building behind the black iron fence to the left (south) and right (north) of the Radeke Entrance, excluding the area in front of Pendleton House
- G. Exterior wall of Carr House facing the lawn in front of the Farago Entrance

Mobile site:

- H. Museum truck

PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

All proposals should include the following:

PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

Each proposal should have a completed Proposal Cover Sheet (last page of Sitings Guidelines). The cover sheet is the only place your name should appear.

PROJECT NARRATIVE ONE

On an attached page, please describe what your proposed piece will look like in 300 words or less: include identification of the site, title for your installation, materials, and installation details. State how your proposal will be implemented and how the site will be returned to its original condition after the exhibition.

PROJECT NARRATIVE TWO

On an attached page, please describe the aesthetic behind your proposed piece in 300 words or less. Include the reasons why you chose the site and how your artistic choices were informed by the site's peculiarities and respond to/comment on the Museum and/or its collections. Describe the intended impact on the viewer.

BUDGET

On an attached page, provide a detailed budget supported by written estimates. The budget must reflect the cost of materials, subcontracted labor, and any expenses related to installation and deinstallation. All budgets will be carefully reviewed by the juror, who may recommend revisions. Based on the final budget, implementation costs of up to \$1,000 will be provided. Funds cannot be directly disbursed to the student. All financial transactions will be handled with the help of the *Sitings 2010* coordinator, and payments must be processed through the RISD Business Office.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Applications should include visuals (sketches, drawings, diagrams, etc.) related to the proposed installation. In addition, **proposals must be supported by no more than 3 visuals illustrating your past work**. You may also include up to 3 printed supporting materials about that past work. (For those submitting multiple proposals, images and printed matter related to past work need be submitted only once).

Please follow the guidelines below:

Videotape: Videos must be ½ inch VHS tape, must be cued up and no longer than 3 minutes. Only one video may be submitted.

Digital files: Digital files must be submitted as Adobe PDF, burned as DATA on one CD-R.

Slide film: Applicants may submit 35mm transparencies. Please number the slides and coordinate with List of Supporting Materials (below).

Image Identification: Please identify and label all drawings, video tapes, CDs, and slides with the following: RISD Box Number, Title of the Work, Date of the Work, Medium, and Dimensions. Be sure your name does not appear on any visual materials.

Printed Supporting Materials: These materials must also be identified by RISD box number, title or designation of type of document (review, exhibition catalogue, brochure, etc.) and date. Your name should be blocked out of any printed materials.

List of Supporting Materials: Please include a separate sheet listing all accompanying materials with relevant Image Identification or Printed Supporting Materials information.

Formatting and submission instructions:

Please provide your **RISD box number on the upper right corner of each attachment** to the **Proposal Cover Sheet** and also **on all supporting visual and printed materials**. This will insure easy processing of the applications for the juror's "blind" consideration. **Your name should not appear on any materials other than the Proposal Cover Sheet.**

The proposal and any drawings in support of the proposal (excluding visuals of previous work) need to be of **high enough contrast for photocopying**.

Each proposal should be submitted in a manila envelope clearly marked **Sitings 2010: Museum as Action**. When submitting more than one proposal, each should be in a separate envelope. **Proposals not contained within a manila envelope or with external attachments to the envelope will not be considered.**

Submit completed proposals to either of the two reception desks at the Museum by 4:45 pm, Friday, October 23, 2009. Late applications will not be considered.

CHECKLIST FOR SUBMITTING SITINGS 2010: MUSEUM AS ACTION PROPOSALS

Each proposal should be submitted in a separate manila envelope, including:

- Proposal Cover Sheet
- Project Narrative One
- Project Narrative Two
- Budget
- List of Supporting Materials
- Supporting Materials:
 - For proposed installation
 - Evidence of past work (for those submitting more than one proposal, images of past work and associated printed matter need be submitted only once)

SITINGS 2010: Museum as Action

PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

One cover sheet per proposal. Please fill out in detail.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

BOX NO. (proposals without RISD box numbers not accepted) _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MAJOR/YEAR _____

