

**CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM HOUSTON
RECEIVES 2005-2006 AICA AWARD
FOR ANDREA ZITTEL: *CRITICAL SPACE***

**Exhibition Named “Best Architecture or Design Show”
By the International Association of Art Critics/USA**

Houston, TX—January 29, 2007—The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston will receive an International Association of Art Critics/USA (AICA) award for the exhibition *Andrea Zittel: Critical Space*, co-curated by CAMH senior curator Paola Morsiani and former New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York curator Trevor Smith. The exhibition, which is organized and circulated by the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and the New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, will be honored with the first-place award for “Best Architecture or Design Show” in recognition of national excellence in the conception and realization of exhibitions.

“The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to be recognized for its curatorial vision and commitment to groundbreaking artists such as Andrea Zittel,” said Contemporary Arts Museum Houston director Marti Mayo. “We are proud to organize and present these critically-acclaimed exhibitions and programs to our diverse regional, national and international audiences, and to continue the museum’s tradition of presenting the best and most exciting art of our time.”

Chartered in 1948, the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is the only major museum in Texas dedicated entirely to the presentation and interpretation of regional, national and international contemporary art. *Andrea Zittel: Critical Space* premiered at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston in October 2005 before being seen at the New Museum and then beginning its North American tour at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo. It will be on view at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, from March 4 to May 14, 2007, and at the Vancouver Art Gallery in Canada from June 9 to October 8, 2007.

Andrea Zittel: Critical Space is the first comprehensive solo exhibition of Zittel’s work in North America. One of the most influential American artists to emerge in the past two decades, Zittel investigates contemporary life in Western societies. Zittel researches, designs, and constructs her own domestic settings that serve as test cases for her experimental living structures. Her home environments and handcrafted “uniforms,” produced under the name “A-Z Administrative Services,” emphasize the ways in which personal needs such as security, self-empowerment, intimacy, and comfort are fulfilled.

Andrea Zittel: Critical Space features approximately 21 of Zittel’s living units and environments from 1991 to the present, including examples of *A-Z Living Units* assemblies and stations, *A-Z Escape* vehicles, *A-Z Desert Islands*, and *A-Z Raugh* systems; the complete series to date of *A-Z Uniform* handmade clothing; a selection of drawings; and recent work developed at A-Z West, Zittel’s desert studio in Joshua Tree, California.

The Museum will formally receive the award at a ceremony on February 21, 2007, at El Museo del Barrio, New York. Other 2005-2006 AICA award recipients include the Centre Pompidou, Paris, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York, for the exhibition *Dada*; the Museum of

Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, for the exhibition *Robert Rauschenberg: Combines*; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, for the presentation of *Marina Abramovic: Seven Easy Pieces*.

About the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston

The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is a non-collecting institution dedicated to presenting the best and most exciting international, national, and regional art of the last 40 years, and to providing a forum for the discussion and understanding of the art of our time. Through dynamic exhibitions accompanied by scholarly publications and accessible educational programs, the Museum reaches out to local, regional, national, and international audiences of all ages. Recent exhibitions include *Wishing for Synchronicity: Works by Pipilotti Rist*, the first comprehensive U.S. survey of the seminal work of the Swiss video artist; *Double Consciousness: Black Conceptual Art Since 1970*, a survey illustrating African-American artists' indelible influence on conceptual art in America and contemporary art history; and *Perspectives@25: A Quarter Century of New Art in Houston*, a retrospective exhibition of the first 25 years of the Museum's *Perspectives* series.

The Museum is located at 5216 Montrose Boulevard at the corner of Bissonnet, in the heart of Houston's Museum District. The Museum is open to the public Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and on Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum and to most events is free and open to the public. The entire Museum is accessible to the physically handicapped. Call 713 284 8250 or visit www.camh.org.

About the AICA

The United States section of the International Association of Art Critics annually invites its nearly 400 members to nominate and vote for outstanding exhibitions of the previous season. AICA is the only organization to formally recognize excellence in this cultural arena, and the annual AICA Awards are the art-world equivalent to those given by the New York Film Critics Circle and the Drama Desk.

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