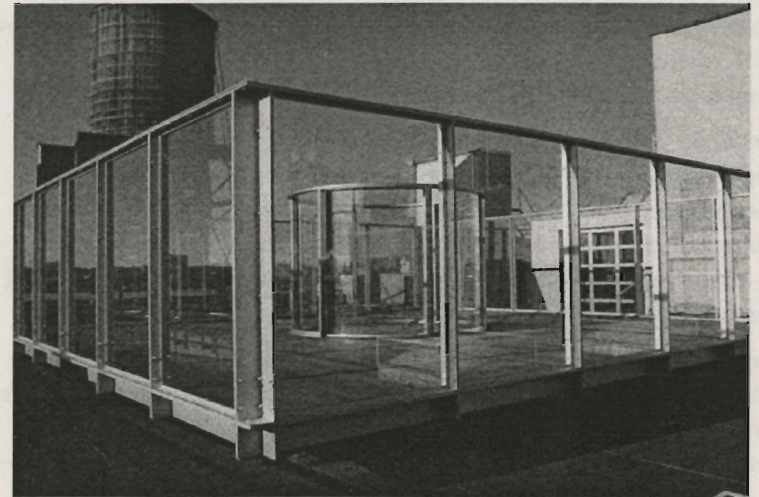


**Discussions in Contemporary Culture
Monuments, Monumentality, Monumentalization**

Mark Rakatansky and Mabel O. Wilson
Saturday, June 14, 2014



Dan Graham, *Rooftop Urban Park Project*, 1981–1991.

Dia:Chelsea

535 West 22nd Street 5th floor New York City

www.diaart.org

Discussions in Contemporary Culture

Monuments, Monumentality, Monumentalization

Monumentality has been a recurring object of examination for Dia since its inception in 1974. From landmark outdoor works by Walter De Maria, Michael Heizer, and Joseph Beuys, and architectural interventions by Dan Flavin and Robert Irwin, to recent proposals such as Thomas Hirschhorn's *Gramsci Monument*, Dia has demonstrated a sustained interest in considering approaches to the monumental as a critical or truncated principle at work in public spaces.

Monuments have traditionally articulated historical and ideological concerns, directly addressing the citizen. In contemporary times, monumentality has emerged as a generalized category that applies to all sorts of grandiose and emblematic structures. The critical examination of this process becomes all the more urgent as the proliferation of monuments overwhelms the globalized, sensation-driven public sphere.

From December 2013 to June 2015, this cycle of Discussions in Contemporary Culture brings together artists, architects, scholars, and writers to address today's monuments and counter-monuments as effigies of the multifarious forces at work in global society, and to examine the current possibilities—even the need—for a redefinition of this important concept.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 14, 2014

- 4 pm **Introduction**
Yasmil Raymond, Curator, Dia Art Foundation
Manuel Cirauqui, Assistant Curator, Dia Art Foundation
- 4:15 pm **Future Memory: Space, Monumentality, and Images of Blackness**
Mabel O. Wilson
- 5:15 pm **Break**
- 5:30 pm **Domesticating Monumentality**
Mark Rakatansky
- 6:15 pm **Panel discussion**

Mark Rakatansky is a writer and principal of Mark Rakatansky Studio. His designs and writings have appeared in *ANY*, *Assemblage*, *Camerawork*, *Journal of Philosophy and the Visual Arts*, and *The Harvard Architecture Review*. His work was included in the Gwangju Design Biennale, South Korea (2009), and the Venice Biennale (2001) and has been exhibited at the Yale School of Architecture Gallery, New Haven (2002); The Urban Center, New York (2001); and the School of the Arts and Architecture, University of California at Los Angeles (1998). He teaches at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation; Parsons The New School for Design; and Pratt Institute. He is the author of *Tectonic Acts of Desire and Doubt* (2012), the ninth volume in the Architecture Words series of the Architectural Association. His current book project explores performative modes in Italian architecture during the sixteenth, eighteenth, and twentieth centuries.

Mabel O. Wilson is the Nancy and George E. Rupp Professor at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University, where she is also the founding director of the Applied Research Practices in Architecture program, codirector of the Global Africa Lab, and a senior fellow at the Institute for Research in African American Studies. She also explores urbanization, new technologies, and globalization in African cities through her collaborative design practices, KW: a and Studio &. In 2012, she published *Negro Building: Black Americans in the World of Fairs and Museums*. Wilson's current book project, *Building Race and Nation: How Slavery Influenced the Civic Architecture of Antebellum America*, will be published in 2016.