

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUR NEW MONUMENTAL SCULPTURES BY MEL KENDRICK TO BE INSTALLED ON PARRISH GROUNDS

SOUTHAMPTON, NY 7/22/11 — The Parrish Art Museum, in partnership with Mary Boone Gallery and the Village of Southampton, will inaugurate a major installation of four monumental sculptures entitled *jacks* by American artist Mel Kendrick. The installation will open to the public Sunday, July 24 and remain on view through December.

The works, made of concrete cast in alternating layers of black and white, are simultaneously massive and playful. Standing 11' high, each sculpture features a block-like pedestal upon which sit intersecting cylinders that rest on points, like a child's toy jacks. The block-like bases, resting at eye level, create a sense of a horizon or plane which separates a visual sensation of mass "above and below." This divide encourages the perception that the animated and freestanding forms on top have been extracted from the voids created by punctuations in the massive foundation. Of course, given the weight and mass of the material, this would be a physical impossibility. The alternate black and white banding of the concrete evokes the epochal "laying down" of geology and the methodical "building up" of architecture. Kendrick has also said, "I was strongly influenced by the black-and-white marble in Italian Gothic churches like the Duomo of Siena."



Mel Kendrick is known primarily for his sculptural work in wood, bronze, rubber, paper, and, most recently, cast concrete. Kendrick's work reflects a deep fascination with process, space, and geometry. The New York Times has written that Kendrick's work "looks offhand, but is in fact complex almost to the point of craziness, Piranesi-style."

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Kendrick attended Trinity College, Connecticut before he moved to New York City where he studied at Hunter College under Tony Smith and worked for Dorothea Rockburne. His first solo show at Artists

Space was in 1974. Since then he has had some forty solo shows and numerous group exhibitions. His most recent works have focused on monumental cast concrete forms, such as the "Markers" installation in Madison Square Park and "jacks."

Mel Kendrick's work can be found in numerous permanent collections, including The Art Institute of Chicago, The Brooklyn Museum, The Dallas Museum of Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, The National Gallery of Art, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Storm King Art Center, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Mel Kendrick is represented by Mary Boone Gallery in New York.

The Museum's programs are made possible, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State's 62 counties, and the property taxpayers from the Southampton School District and the Tuckahoe Common School District.

About the Parrish Art Museum

The Parrish Art Museum is located in Southampton, New York. Founded in 1897, the Museum celebrates the artistic legacy of Long Island's East End, one of America's most vital creative centers. Since the mid-1950s the Museum has grown from a small village art gallery into an important art museum with a collection of more than 2,600 works of art from the nineteenth century to the present. It includes such contemporary painters and sculptors as John Chamberlain, Chuck Close, Eric Fischl, April Gornik, Elizabeth Peyton, as well as such masters as Dan Flavin, Roy Lichtenstein, Jackson Pollock, Lee Krasner, and Willem de Kooning. The Parrish houses important collections of works by the American Impressionist William Merritt Chase and the post-war American realist Fairfield Porter. A vital cultural resource serving a diverse audience, the Parrish organizes and presents changing exhibitions and offers a dynamic schedule of creative and engaging public programs including lectures, films, performances, concerts, and studio classes for all ages. On July 19, 2010, the Parrish broke ground on a new building designed by internationally acclaimed Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron. The 34,500-square-foot facility will triple the Museum's current exhibition space and allow for the simultaneous presentation of loan exhibitions and installations drawn from the permanent collection. The new building is expected to open in summer 2012.

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