

THE DRAWING CENTER ANNOUNCES

***William Anastasi:
Raw***

Drawing Room

April 21 – July 21, 2007

Opening Reception: Friday, April 20, 6 – 8 pm

Artist Talk: Thursday, May 31, 6:30 pm

New York, March 15, 2007 – The Drawing Center is pleased to announce ***Raw***, a solo exhibition by **William Anastasi** on view in the Drawing Room from April 21 through July 21, 2007. For this exhibition, the artist will recreate seminal site-specific works dating from the mid-1960s. These early pieces are a testament to the artist's pioneering efforts and ongoing interest in chance-based process, site-specificity, and the physicality of drawing. The artworks incisively explore the nature and definition of drawing through different strategies – pouring, throwing, propping – bringing to



Left: WILLIAM ANASTASI, *Untitled*, 1966. One gallon of industrial high-gloss enamel, thrown, dimensions variable. Right: WILLIAM ANASTASI, *Untitled*, 1966. One gallon of industrial high-gloss enamel, poured, dimensions variable.

the surface questions of material and the relationship between line and support. By focusing on a key facet of Anastasi's expansive approach to the medium of drawing, the exhibition aims to contribute to the critical reconsideration of his role within the historical development of Conceptual practice and early Minimalism art.

Highlights from the exhibition include two untitled works from 1966: to make the first of these site-specific pieces, Anastasi throws one gallon of industrial high gloss enamel against a wall, the resulting form created by the momentum of the artist's body; in a related piece, the artist pours the paint from near the seam between ceiling and wall, the force of gravity replacing the vitality of the artist's gesture as determinant. The artist's *Untitled* (1965) creates a similar linear composition from a short diagonal wooden beam holding up a longer one against the surface of the wall. The Drawing Center will feature a new version of the same work fabricated in aluminum. The hot-rolled steel plate of *Sink* (1963) uses surface tension to collect water poured daily on its surface, which begins to rust and thus change form as the materials interact over time. The exhibition will also feature small scale drawings related to works of

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the same era (and to those on view in the Drawing Room), shedding light on the artist's process and linking these site-specific installations to their conception over forty years ago.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

William Anastasi was born in Philadelphia in 1933 and has lived and worked in New York since the early 1960s. Widely considered to be a pioneer in the history of Conceptual art, Anastasi has worked in painting, sculpture, collage, photography, and drawing for over four decades. His work has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions worldwide and is held in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; Museet for Samtidskunst, Roskilde, Denmark; and Diözesanmuseum Köln, Cologne, Germany; among many others.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

On **Thursday, May 31 at 6:30 pm**, **William Anastasi** will speak about his work in conversation with **João Ribas**, Curator, The Drawing Center. Admission is free.

PUBLICATION

William Anastasi: Raw will be accompanied by ***Drawing Papers 70***, a 16-page edition of The Drawing Center's publication series featuring quotations both from and chosen by the artist, juxtaposed with images of works in the exhibition.

CREDITS

William Anastasi: Raw has been made possible, in part, with the support of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm and Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm (closed Sundays and Mondays). The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit U.S. museum to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

www.drawingcenter.org

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