



PROJECTS: LOREN MADSEN

Two works by 31-year-old California sculptor Loren Madsen will be on view from February 14 through March 16 at The Museum of Modern Art as part of the continuing "Projects" series devoted to recent developments in art. Both works deal with the state of suspension and its ability to generate psychological tension in the observer.

One piece consists of a wall of approximately 400 red Norman bricks leaning at an angle of 60° to the floor. To each brick is attached a fine stainless steel wire which runs at a 90° angle from the brick to the wall or ceiling. The diaphanous configuration of the 400 shimmering wires contrasts with the heavy, dark mass of the brick wall.

(more)

The artist conceives of the wall as a monolithic plane separating two states--"the wire side, which is appealing but physically inaccessible and the open side, which is accessible but unappealing." While the piece is not in fact dangerous, the delicate appearance of the wires belies their strength and contributes to the menacing aspect of the leaning wall.

In the second piece, 13 blocks of fir are held midway up against one gallery wall by 13 long and thin fir boards wedged between them and the opposite wall. These bowed boards threaten to snap or spring out of their state of tension and shatter the apparently delicate equilibrium of the piece.

Both pieces are architectural or environmental insofar as they structurally incorporate elements (walls, ceiling, floor) of the physical space in which they are situated. Further, each piece exists in the perceiver's space and as such is experienced not only as something to be looked at passively but also as a potentially active or aggressive element of the space in which one is moving. At the same time the pieces have a visual elegance and grace.

Directed by Barbara London, Curatorial Assistant, Prints and Illustrated Books, the exhibition also includes a model and diagrams for a larger leaning brick wall and drawings for the wall actually executed. The Museum of Modern Art gratefully acknowledges the support of its exhibition program by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Additional information available from Mark Segal, Assistant, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, New York 10019. Phone (212) 956-7296, -7501.