



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
Contact: Astrid Persans, Director

Karen Bausman Debuts Plans for *The Wall Project*

NEW YORK CITY- Karen Bausman has publicly debuted plans for *The Wall Project*, an ambitious sculptural installation to be mounted in the spring of 2010. In an October 23rd lecture for City University's Women in Architecture series Ms. Bausman described the project's re-envisioning of Lower Manhattan prior to the work of the 1811 Planning Commission, simultaneously kicking off fundraising efforts for the project.

"The Planning Commission's intended purpose and signature achievement," Bausman explained, "was to impose a regimented, urban grid over generations of organically developed Native American footpaths enmeshing the terrain whose Lenape inhabitants once knew it as 'manah-atin', island of hills."

She went on to describe a series of 30 interconnected walls made of layered materials and intended to echo the long-lost topographical history of the approximate area from current-day Battery Park to Wall and Rector Streets. To counter the experience dictated by today's utilitarian urban grid, *The Wall Project* will invite viewers to experience walking navigation as an organic, creative process. To sharpen the contrast, the work will be installed on the eve of the 1811 Planning Commission's centennial.

Noted critic Michael Sorkin commented later that "the art of Karen Bausman combines form and meaning in meticulous and original service to knowledge and the beautiful. Her Wall Project will be an extraordinary gift to the city and its memory."

Visual arts agency PowerHouse Projects will lead project fundraising efforts. "This is an exciting time in Lower Manhattan's history," Director Astrid Persans noted after Ms. Bausman's talk. "We're excited to make *The Wall Project* a part of that history. I can't think of a more evocative and engaging public work to share with local and international audiences."

PowerHouse Projects has planned a progressive rollout of initiatives introducing *The Wall Project* to a broader public over the next 18 months, including *Envisioning the Wall*, a Spring 2009 exhibition of preparatory sketches by the artist.

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PowerHouse Projects focuses on expanding artist's careers beyond the conventional gallery market through closer contact between artists, collectors and benefactors. Past efforts include curated studio visits and corporate exhibitions, artists' speaking engagements, international art fair participation and gallery collaborations.

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What: *The Wall Project*
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