

currents

religion & ethics • arts • tv

FRIDAY
February 23, 2001



THE SAN DIEGO
UNION-TRIBUNE

Sphere hosts big images at inSITE2000

By Robert L. Pincus
ART CRITIC

The Polish-born, internationally known artist Krzysztof Wodiczko is returning to the scene of an earlier success: the Omnimax sphere at Tijuana's Centro Cultural.

His contribution, which will culminate inSITE2000, will premiere today and repeat tomorrow at 7 p.m., as part of the bi-national exhibition's final "Exploration Weekend."

Wodiczko's images were projected large there in 1988, transforming the site into a kind of theater for social commentary. Back then, monumental-scale photographs alone were his medium. The Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego commissioned him to do "projection pieces" on both Tijuana's Centro and Balboa Park's Museum of Man.

This new piece, taking advantage of far more advanced technology, will project live interviews with women from Tijuana's *maquiladora* industry on the Centro Cultural's sphere. They are an outgrowth of the artist's residency in the San Diego-Tijuana region during the past year.

The 57-year-old Wodiczko, who emigrated to Canada from Warsaw in 1977, divides his time between New York and Cambridge. His public projection pieces have appeared on numerous sites, from East Berlin's Lenin Monument to Boston's Bunker Hill Monument.

Some works, such as his memorable project for the Museum of Man, make buildings into temporary surrogates for the human figure. In a tidy allegory of aggressive consumers and downtrodden producers, he turned the museum's facade into a man at a dinner table, fork and knife raised, and its tower into shackled hands bearing fruit. Other examples lean toward agitprop, as in 1985 when, without permission, he projected a swastika on the pediment of the South African House in London's Trafalgar Square, eliciting an official protest from England to Canada (his land of citizenship).

In addition to Wodiczko's monumental audio-visual projections, events during this final weekend of inSITE2000 will include guided bus tours of the 27 projects in San Diego and Tijuana, as well as a symposium titled "Image Power: Cultural Interventions as Public Memory in Post-Modern Spaces," Sunday at 11 a.m. at Tijuana's Centro Cultural. Participants will include Wodiczko and cultural historian George Yudice.

For more information, visit www.inSITE2000, or call the inSITE office at (619) 544-1482.