



a contemporary art space

**SITE SANTA FE COMMISSIONS
A NEW INSTALLATION BY RUBEN OCHOA
CROOKED UNDER THE WEIGHT**

June 13 – September 6, 2009
Press Preview, Friday, June 12, 2009, 11 am
Members Opening, Friday, June 12, 2009, 5-7 pm
Free Public Opening: Friday, June 26, 5-7 pm

June 9, 2009

SITE Santa Fe
1606 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Please Note: All information is subject to change. Please confirm with the Press Office prior to publication.

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Santa Fe, NM – SITE Santa Fe is pleased to present a new installation by Ruben Ochoa from June 12 – September 6, 2009. There will be a media preview of the exhibition with the artist on Friday, June 12, at 11 am. The free public opening of the exhibition is Friday, June 26 from 5–7 pm.

Los Angeles artist Ruben Ochoa investigates the ways that class and race are expressed in the built environment. Drawing equally from international conceptual practices of the last thirty years and the funk and humor typical of the West Coast scene, he makes photographs, public art interventions, sculptures and installations from concrete, re-bar, dirt, metal fencing, asphalt and related materials. His best-known project, *Fwy Wall Extraction* (2006-07) injected photographic murals into a slice of LA's Interstate 10, alluding to the landscape that the retaining walls blocked from view, and creating the illusion that sections of the wall had been removed. For Ochoa, retaining walls may provide protection, but they also very obviously reference borders, and an effort to keep some things out of the way. Retaining walls are meant to prevent erosion; to keep nature from intruding on the man-made space of the freeway. Physically and symbolically they reinforce the divisions between neighborhoods, often drawn along class lines, created by the construction of the freeways. Ochoa uses the tensions latent within the material structure of the built environment to engage larger geo-political and social issues. In his work, Ochoa shows an interest in exploring issues of containment and transgression within a number of spheres.



Ruben Ochoa, process shot for *Crooked Under The Weight* (working title) SITE Santa Fe Commission, 2009, Courtesy of the artist and Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects. Photo: Bill Stengel.

SITE Santa Fe has commissioned Ochoa to make new work for his first major one-person museum exhibition. Ochoa's installation at SITE will build upon the foundation of works like *Fwy Wall Extraction*, while exploring new directions. This work will continue his engagement with ideas such as the conflict between the natural and the built environment, the real and the illusionary, and the disruption of the sanctity of the art exhibition space. Monumental sculptures will meander through SITE's galleries like giant rebar and concrete creatures, creating a visceral experience for visitors. Taking their form from the material of the exhibition space itself, these sculptures will be partially constructed from the concrete of the gallery floor. While the elegance of their form demonstrates the hand of the artist, this exists in tension with the feeling that these sculptures are autonomous objects that have forcibly dislodged themselves from the fabric of the museum.

A recipient of grants from the Creative Capital and Rockefeller Foundations, Ochoa was included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial. He has exhibited his work at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego and the Zach ta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw, Poland among other venues.

Funding

This exhibition is generously funded by the Board of Directors as well as by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and the National Endowment for the Arts. This announcement is partially funded by the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax.

About SITE

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Hours: Thursday and Saturday, 10 AM–5 PM; Friday, 10 AM–7 PM; Sunday, 12 PM–5 PM; closed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday except Wednesdays 10 AM–5 PM in July & August. Museum admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, teachers, and seniors; members are free. Free admission is offered on Fridays, made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston. Tours by SITE Guides are available free of charge to the public and are also regularly scheduled on Fridays at 6 pm, and Saturdays & Sundays at 2 pm. SITE Santa Fe gift certificates are available. Call 505.989.1199 for more information.