

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Deborah Aschheim exhibition opens February 9, 2008 at Laumeier Sculpture Park; Collaborative Lecture/Discussion between Artist and Scientist at Washington University scheduled for March 20, 2008.

St. Louis, MO (February 1, 2008) – Laumeier Sculpture Park presents the work of Deborah Aschheim in an exhibition titled, *Deborah Aschheim: Reconsider*, which opens February 9, 2008. Continuing through May 11, 2008, the exhibition will transform the Laumeier galleries into an intensely immersive sensory experience. Deborah Aschheim comes from a family with a history of Alzheimer's disease. As a result, much of Aschheim's work focuses on creating sculptural and interactive multi-sensory responses to neuroscience, memory and cognitive processes. Much of the work emanates from her personal experiences.

Deborah Aschheim: Reconsider will include a refined version of her six-part series of neural network installations. Among new work in the exhibition will be a site-specific "memory web," an expansive network of audio-video elements that integrate songs created in collaboration with musician Lisa Mezzacappa. Linked by LED light nodes and colored plastic fibers, the installation will wind through three museum galleries. Aschheim will also recreate an outdoor work, *Arborization* — a network-based sculpture making a visual connection between the microscopic systems of the body, the electrical networks of the city and the branching patterns of the living trees supporting it. Additionally, a gallery will be reserved for video, drawings and ephemera from many of the artist's perception experiments.

Aschheim is an energetic and obsessive artist, constantly educating herself, conducting experiments and branching out in her practice. Her trans-disciplinary approach to art reaches from paint to Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) collaborations with the University of Pittsburgh.

Scientific collaborations continue to be a major part of Aschheim's work and research. Locally, Aschheim's work intersects with two of the Washington University Department of Psychology's key areas of research: Aging & Development and Brain Behavior & Cognition. On March 20 at 6:00 p.m., the public is invited to attend a cross-discipline panel discussion with Aschheim and researchers from the Dynamic Cognition Laboratory at Washington University in St. Louis. Dr. Jeff Zacks, the Lab's Director, will collaborate with the artist in a dialogue and presentation examining the relationship between the science of memory and the brain and Aschheim's artistic exploration of the subject. The lecture will be held in January Hall, Room 110.

Deborah Aschheim (b. 1964) received a B.A. in Anthropology from Brown University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Washington. She lives and works in Los Angeles. During the past decade, she has created installations for various group and solo exhibitions across the United States and Europe including the Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh, the Ben Maltz Gallery at the Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles and the Laguna Art Museum in Laguna Beach, California. Aschheim has received a variety of supporting grants and appointments. A curriculum vitae, examples of her work and additional information are available on the artist's website at www.deborahaschheim.com.

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The exhibition will feature a catalog with an essay by Meg Linton, Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs at the Otis College of Art And Design in Los Angeles.

- *Deborah Aschheim: Reconsider* opens Saturday, February 9, 2008 with a public reception from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and continues through May 11, 2008.
- Collaborative Lecture/Discussion: Thursday, March 20, 6:00 p.m., Washington University's January Hall, Room 110.

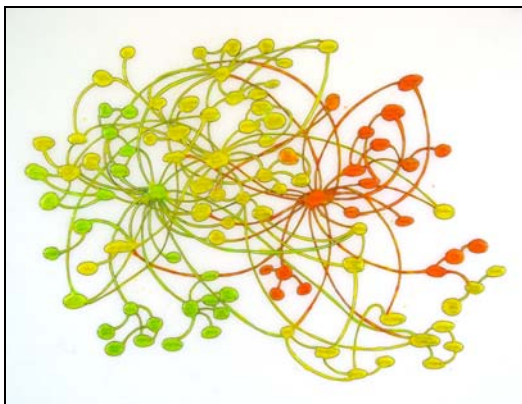
Laumeier Sculpture Park is located at 12580 Rott Road in St. Louis County, near Interstate 44 and Lindbergh Boulevard. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. until ½ hour past sunset. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. For more information, call 314-821-1209 or visit us at www.laumeier.org.

Photos:



Deborah Aschheim – Aschheim-Matress_Factory_OnMemory.jpg

Deborah Aschheim, *On Memory* (installation detail at the Mattress Factory), 2006, plastic, LEDs, video, image by Owen Smith



Deborah Aschheim – Aschheim-Daniel_and_Annie.jpg

Deborah Aschheim, *Daniel and Annie*, 2006, ink and acrylic on Dura-Lar™, 20"x25", image courtesy of the artist

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