

## GAGOSIAN GALLERY

March 23, 2007

### **PRESS RELEASE**

GAGOSIAN GALLERY  
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Tue – Sat 10:00am–6:00pm

## WALTER DE MARIA

Saturday, March 31 – Saturday, May 5, 2007

Opening reception: Saturday, March 31st, from 6 to 8pm

*Art reminds us we're alive.*

--Walter De Maria

Gagosian Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of two large-scale sculptures by Walter De Maria, *A Computer Which Will Solve Every Problem in the World/3-12 Polygon* (1984) and *13, 14, 15 Meter Rows* (1985). These works attest to the artist's longstanding interest in mathematical systems, yet the experience of these vast works is as sensory as it is intellectual, communicating a sense of the infinite and the sublime. They are part of a thirteen-year series of monumental sculptures using a horizontal format, which feature groupings of elements ordered according to precise calculations. This series includes *The Broken Kilometer* (1979), *360°/I-Ching* (1981), *Apollo's Ecstasy* (1990), and *The 2000 Sculpture* (1992).

The exhibition comprises two installations that are derived from the same numerological principals and are linked both physically and conceptually. *A Computer Which Will Solve Every Problem in the World/3-12 Polygon* -- on loan from the Boijmans van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam and on view in the United States for the first time -- occupies the entire 21<sup>st</sup> Street gallery. The work consists of seventy-five solid stainless steel rods, each one measuring one meter long and having equal volume and weight. The rods are arranged on the floor in ten rows, with every successive row increasing by a meter in length. The rods become increasingly faceted with every row. Metal halide lights dramatically illuminate the space; the steel rods flicker, suggesting the latent energy contained within them. Created before computers evolved into the ubiquitous objects that they are today, the work ingeniously asks whether such a device could, in fact, solve any potential problem. De Maria's title, in combination with the subtle variations of the piece, implies that the most profound answers may be found by phenomenological rather than technological means, that is, through our own heightened awareness.

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In the 24<sup>th</sup> Street gallery *13, 14, 15 Meter Rows* builds upon the formula of *A Computer Which Will Solve Every Problem in the World*, with an additional forty-two rods arranged in three rows. Similarly, its shape and alignment seem to metamorphose as the viewer moves around the sculpture. However, in this case natural light floods the gallery space through the south and west clerestory windows, and the viewer experiences the artwork differently according to the weather and the time of day.

**Walter De Maria** was born in California and lives and works in New York. He has exhibited his work throughout the world, most recently at the Chichu Art Museum, Naoshima, Japan (2000, 2004); Fondazione Prada, Milan (1999); and the Kunsthaus Zürich (1992, 1999). *One Sun/34 Moons* (2002), conceived by the artist in collaboration with architect Steven Holl, will open in June of 2007 at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City. Several of the artist's sculptural installations remain on continuous view: *The New York Earth Room* (1977) at 141 Wooster Street, New York; *The Broken Kilometer* at 393 West Broadway, New York; *The Lightning Field* (1977) in New Mexico (by appointment through the Dia Art Foundation); *The Vertical Earth Kilometer* (1977) in the Friedrichsplatz in Kassel, Germany.

For more information please contact the gallery.