

# ART IN GENERAL

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For Immediate Release

## Art in General to launch Andrea Geyer's artist's book, *Audrey Munson*

Publication Date: Spring 2007

To inaugurate the launch of Andrea Geyer's book, the fall edition of Art in General's publication *Inside* includes "This Site of Memory," a limited-edition map honoring a famous artist's model, Audrey Munson. Walking tours to visit Munson sculptures in Manhattan will also be offered throughout the month of November.

New York, NY (October 15, 2006)—As part of a new-commissions program that comprehensively supports New York-based artists in the development of new projects, Art in General is pleased to announce the upcoming publication of Andrea Geyer's artist's book *Audrey Munson*, honoring the life of one of New York City's most famous artist's models.

Andrea Geyer, a German-born, New York-based artist, has conducted intensive research on Audrey Munson's life, legacy and archetype. Munson, whose likeness can be found throughout Manhattan publicly representing consummate concepts like freedom, purity, peace and truth, ranked among the most sought-after muses for the first quarter of the twentieth century. Geyer's book is not a biography, but a contextualization of Munson's life within the larger struggle of women trying to find their voices during their lifetimes and gain fair representation in the records of New York City history.

Art in General has organized free walking tours visiting sculptures of Munson throughout the month of November. Distinguished feminists and historians will lead discussions based on such questions as: What is the role of public art in preserving collective memories? And why is the female form often used in this way?

Dates and locations of the tours follow:

***Patronage and Public Space*** led by William Smith, graduate student at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University.

Saturday, November 4, 12 p.m.

Meeting location: Columbus Circle and 59<sup>th</sup> Street

How and why did Audrey Munson become the face of Manhattan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century? By examining two sculptures on the southern edge of Central Park, this guided tour will investigate the complex patronage systems that initiated an upsurge in public-art construction at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Two sculptures that feature Munson, *The Maine Memorial* and *Pulitzer Fountain*, illustrate the myriad private and public interests served by public art and offer a glimpse of the stylistic diversity of the American academic sculpture.

***Sites of Memory*** led by William Smith, graduate student at the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University.

Saturday, November 11, 12 p.m.

Meeting location: 106<sup>th</sup> St. between Broadway and West End Avenue

Through a juxtaposition of at least two memorials on the Upper West Side, the *Straus Memorial* and the first fireman's memorial, this guided walking tour will explore the figural statue as a site of mourning. It will emphasize the special role of allegorical sculptures for which Munson posed, creating a public language for expressing and remembering loss

***More than Muse*** led by Amy Mackie, director of Taxter & Spengemann Gallery in New York City.

Sunday, November 19, 12 p.m.

Meeting location: U.S. Custom House, 1 Bowling Green

Why has the female form historically represented universal concepts such as beauty, peace or truth? Amy Mackie will speak at the United States Custom House, the site of four sculptures by Daniel Chester French, for whom Munson modeled. Munson, whom the press often referred to as "Miss Manhattan," posed for allegorical sculptures of America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The talk will examine the use of the female figure in public works and Munson's desire to overcome the limitations imposed on women at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

***Human Figure and Monumental Architecture*** led by Dr. Geoffrey Taylor, architectural historian and research scholar at the Metropolitan Museum of Art \*

Saturday, November 25, 12 p.m.

Meeting location: Education entrance to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (beyond the security and coat check area). Note: The Met is located at 1000 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. at 82<sup>nd</sup> St.; \$20 recommended admission for adults, \$10 recommended for senior citizens, \$10 recommended for students, though nobody is required to pay.

At the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Audrey Munson's image is seen in representations evoking human achievement, loss, and memory. A conversational tour led by Geoffrey Taylor will address the human figure in the context of monumental architecture. To illustrate the dependency on Classical tradition in early 20<sup>th</sup>-century America, this guided walking tour will examine the portrayal of Munson as *Victory Mourning and Memory*, both by Daniel Chester French, and *Descending Night* by Adolf Weinman, and consider the use of her figure within the façade of the museum.

**\*Please note: Space for the November 25 tour is limited. Please RSVP in advance for the Sept. 25 tour to: [mariela@artingeneral.org](mailto:mariela@artingeneral.org).**

### **Map**

A map revealing the locations of Munson sculptures, *This Site of Memory: Audrey Munson*, will be available as part of the fall INSIDE, Art in General's quarterly calendar.

### **Audrey Munson Artist Book**

*Audrey Munson*, Geyer's soft-cover, black-and-white, 80-page artist's book, available for sale beginning in the spring of 2007 for \$20 at both Art in General and Printed Matter ([printedmatter.org](http://printedmatter.org)), includes photographs from Geyer's research, examples of the celebrated model's own writing, extensive documentation of ephemera including scrapbook pages, announcements and architectural plans as well as essays by Andrea Geyer, the media theorist and writer Cynthia Chriss, the New York-based artist Andrea Ray and Justin D. White, an Oswego-based historian and Audrey Munson specialist.

### **About the Artist**

Born in 1971 in Freiburg, Germany, Andrea Geyer has been living and working in New York for more than ten years. During the 1990s, she studied art and photojournalism in Germany and in 2000 graduated from the Whitney Museum's Independent Study Program in New York. Geyer has participated in two prominent artist residency programs in New York City: in 1998, at the International Studio and Curatorial Program, and in 2003-2004 at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Workspace at the Woolworth Building. Together with Sharon Hayes, Ashley Hunt, Katya Sander and David Thorne she is a 2006/2007 Vera List Center for Arts and Politics fellow. In 2003, she was awarded a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship and was a resident artist at the International Artist Studio Program in Stockholm, Sweden. She was a member of Nomads and Residents, organizing artist talks, discussions and events, and among other ongoing organizational activities, recently co-organized "When Artist Say We" an extensive overview of New York City's artists at New York City's Artist Space.

Geyer's work has been intensively shown internationally. Solo exhibitions include: Parallax at the Secession in Vienna, Austria (2003), at the Kunstverein St. Gallen im Katharinen in St. Gallen, Switzerland (2004), and *Fantasies are feelings given form. Don't worry, they are safe if understood*, at Parlour Projects in Brooklyn, NY (2001). Group shows include *Be what you want but stay where you are* at the Witte de With in Rotterdam, Amsterdam and *Patriot* at the Contemporary Museum in Baltimore, Maryland *How Do I Want to Be Governed?* At Miami Central, Miami (2004), *Teasing Minds* at the Kunstverein Munchen in Munich, Germany (2004), *The American Effect* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2003), *En Route*, Serpentine Gallery London (2003) and *Manifesta 4* in Frankfurt, Germany (2002).

## **Funding**

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## **About Art in General**

Founded in 1981 in Lower Manhattan, Art in General is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists and informs and engages the public about their work.

In 25 years, the organization has emerged as one of New York City's leading nonprofits devoted to supporting and stimulating the creation of contemporary art, providing an environment in which artists can exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers. Art in General has exhibited the work of nearly 5,000 artists working across a wide range of media.

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