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Press images available at ricegallery.org

RICE GALLERY PRESENTS
WHITE WEBB'S *EMINENT DOMAIN*
NOVEMBER 10 – DECEMBER 11, 2005

Opening Celebration: Thursday, November 10, 5:30 – 7:30 pm



HOUSTON, Texas, September 23, 2005 — Rice Gallery is pleased to present *Eminent Domain*, an installation by New York designers Matthew White and Frank Webb, on view November 10 — December 11, 2005. The White Webb partnership is known for creating whimsical furniture using collaged elements of antique engravings. The designers enlarge black and white reproductions of the engravings, silk-screen them onto fiberboard, then cut and assemble the pieces into furniture and accessories that are a witty collision of classic imagery and pop sensibility. The opening celebration on Thursday, November 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm will feature remarks by Matthew White and Frank Webb at 6:00 pm. Complimentary beverages including ale from St. Arnold Brewery will be served. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.ricegallery.org, or call 713.348.6069.

The White Webb installation at Rice Gallery expands the idea of their furniture to an entire setting, a lighthearted folly, that includes a pavilion in the center of the gallery. Although the exterior of the pavilion is stark white, every surface of its interior, furnishings, and accessories — French walls, Italian ceiling, Moroccan floor, Regence chandelier, even the ornate, circular table and the butterfly collection and magnifying glass resting on it — are covered with engravings. The pavilion sits in a garden-like setting with hand-tinted, giant flowers and insects, cut from botanical prints, winding up spring-green walls. Oversized and cartoon-like,



Eminent Domain is also elegant. It gently pokes fun at, yet at the same time pays homage to, the grand European styles of the past that are captured in the detailed engravings.

ABOUT THE DESIGNERS

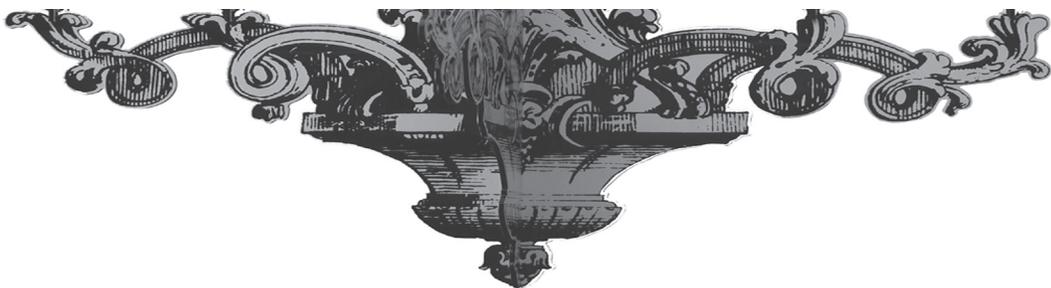
Matthew White was born in Amarillo, Texas in 1958. He studied at the School of American Ballet, New York, from 1977 to 1978, and danced professionally with the Los Angeles Ballet until 1983. White then worked as a graphic artist until he launched his own antiques business in 1996. He expanded his practice into interior design, and in 2004 was named one of the "AD 100," *Architectural Digest's* list of the 100 best designers in the world. He is on the board of *Save Venice*, a non-profit group that restores art and monuments in Venice, Italy. White lives in Los Angeles and New York.

Born in Massachusetts in 1964, Frank Webb holds a degree in international economics from Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service (1986), as well as a certificate in international business from Nijenrode, the Netherlands School of Business. He worked in the financial service industry for seventeen years before leaving to explore other fields. In 2004 he joined forces with Matthew White and formed White Webb. He lives in New York.

White Webb, LLC is an interior design firm with offices in New York and California. Their projects have been seen in nearly every national design magazine, as well as *The New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*.

GALLERY TALK AND LUNCHEON

Matthew White and Frank Webb will give a gallery talk at noon on Friday, November 10. A complimentary light lunch will be provided to all participants. All events are free and open to the public.



GALLERY INFORMATION

Rice Gallery is celebrating its tenth year as the only university museum in the country dedicated to installation art.

ADMISSION IS FREE.

SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP

Rice Gallery exhibitions and programs receive major support from Rice Gallery Patrons and Members, The Brown Foundation, Inc., and the Kilgore Endowment. Exhibition catalogues are funded in part by the Robert J. Card, M.D. and Karol Kreymer Catalogue Endowment. The gallery receives partial operating support from the City of Houston. KUHF-FM and Saint Arnold Brewing Company provide in-kind support.

LOCATION, PARKING, AND WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Rice Gallery is on the ground floor of Sewall Hall, and is best reached using Campus Entrance 1 located at the intersection of Main Street and Sunset Boulevard. When the entrance road dead-ends turn left into paid visitor parking (credit card only, \$3.00 per hour, \$9.00 daily maximum) in the Founder's Court Lot. For other parking options visit www.rice.edu/parking.

By METRORail: Hermann Park/Rice University Station. Wheelchair access is on the south side of Sewall Hall, the left side of the building.

HOURS

Rice Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 - 5:00, Thursday until 7:00, and Sunday noon to 5:00. The gallery is closed Mondays and university holidays.