

For Immediate Release
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**ARTIST FRANZ WEST INSTALLS SECOND HALF OF *2TOPIA*
INTERNET BED AND LOUNGE IN GALLERIES; CAFÉ PORTION CONTINUES**

Austrian artist **Franz West**—known for his social spaces that combine art and life, and the designer of the new furniture in the Wexner Center Café—will be installing the second portion of his Wexner Center project. West's *Internet Bed* and a reading room lounge will be on view and open for use in the galleries **September 18–December 30, 2001**, in conjunction with the fall exhibitions. The Café portion, which includes West's furniture plus an adjacent Internet lounge, remains on view through May 2002. West's two-pronged project, *2Topia*, is the first in the Wexner Center's *Notations* series of artists' projects in and around the center, and at sites around the city.

INTERNET BED

West's *Internet Bed* (1997)—a giant webbed “bed” made of a spongy material, with a computer terminal in the middle—will allow visitors to access educational materials on the web. The web sites will be projected onto a big screen. The bed will be installed in the galleries amidst the Hélio Oiticica exhibition.

READING ROOM LOUNGE

West will also create a reading room lounge between Galleries C and D that will include West's divans, sofas, tables, and bookshelves, plus tables by West collaborator Heimo Zobernig and materials on Hélio Oiticica—an artist who shares with West notions of participation, and a desire to break down barriers between artist and audience.

NOTATIONS

The West project marks the first of a series of the center's *Notations*—artists' projects notable for their innovative use of nontraditional exhibition spaces. Adapted from ideas articulated in John Cage's seminal book of the same name, *Notations* will further

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connect the center with the Ohio State campus and Columbus by utilizing public spaces around the city. Artists participating in summer 2002 *Notations* projects are Alicia Framis from Spain, Jeanne van Heeswijk from the Netherlands, and Carsten Höller, a Belgian artist based in Helsinki. American artist Lawrence Weiner is also slated for a future *Notations* project.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

West is a self-taught multimedia artist whose career spans more than 25 years and has included exhibitions in major international museums and galleries, and participation in the Venice Biennale in 1990 and Documentas IX and X (1992 and '97) in Kassel, Germany. Almost as much philosopher and student of human nature as visual artist, West explores the notion of the integration of art and life, creating sculpture and furniture that often appears in public spaces and invites participation. His work has included such installations as couches in outdoor public spaces and day-beds set up in museums in front of revered works of art. A frequent collaborator with other artists, West has also produced often irreverent multimedia collages, sculptures, and performances, continually seeking to break down barriers between art and viewer.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: FRANZ WEST: 2TOPIA

Description: Austrian artist Franz West installs his *Internet Bed* and a reading room lounge in the galleries. West's café installation continues.

Dates: September 18–December 30, 2001. (Café through May 2002.)

Location: Wexner Center for the Arts, 1871 North High Street (at 15th Avenue) on the campus of The Ohio State University, Columbus.

Gallery hours: 10 am–6 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; 10 am–9 pm Thursdays; 12 noon–6 pm Sundays. Café service (after September 18): 8 am–2:30 pm Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; 8 am–8 pm Thursdays; 11 am–3 pm Saturdays; 12 pm–4 pm Sundays.

Admission to galleries: \$3 general public; \$2 students/senior citizens/group; free for members and OSU students, faculty, and staff, and children under 12. Includes admission to *Hélio Oiticica: Quasi-cinemas* and *Johan van der Keuken: From The Body and the City*. **Admission to West's Café installation:** Free.

Public information: 614 292-3535 or www.wexarts.org

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.