

wexner center for the arts

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NEWS ABOUT WEXNER CENTER GALLERY RENOVATION

The Wexner Center galleries, currently closed as preparations for renovation continue, are due to reopen in November of 2005. The project entails significant infrastructural changes, including replacement of the skylight and glass wall that run the length of the galleries; extensive improvements to the climate control systems; and roof replacement. The project's design development phase has been completed, and construction is due to begin in August of 2004.

The Ohio State University board of trustees has allocated \$14.5 million for the renovation project. Arup, an international design and engineering firm with expertise in museum and gallery renovations, is overseeing the renovation design.

"These renovations will greatly enhance the function and flexibility of the galleries, allowing the Center to better meet rigorous museum standards," says Wexner Center Director Sherri Geldin. "We are especially pleased that the improvements will allow for more sophisticated light control capabilities while at the same time more fully revealing the building's original architectural intent. To responsibly and successfully exhibit art in all media, it is imperative that we install these state-of-the-art systems."

Exhibitions are on view at the Wexner Center Galleries at The Belmont Building at Spring Street and Neil Avenue in the Arena District throughout the course of the renovations. *Splat Boom Pow! The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art* and *Tea and Coffee Towers* are on view there January 31–May 2; the photography exhibition *Visions from America: Photographs from the Whitney Museum of American Art* and the group sculpture show *Particle Theory* run May 22–August 15.

Performing arts, film, and educational programming sustain their customary pace. The Wexner Center Bookshop and Café remain open weekdays, and the Center's Art & Technology facility—including state-of-the-art video and sound editing suites—remains active, supporting artists' projects throughout the year.

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