

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Karen Simonian, 614 292-9923 or simonian.4@osu.edu

WEXNER CENTER GALLERIES TO UNDERGO RENOVATIONS

The Wexner Center galleries will undergo renovations starting late summer or early fall of 2002. The Ohio State University has allocated \$10 million for the renovation project. Construction is expected to last about a year and will not alter the architectural identity of the building.

The project will entail significant infrastructural changes, including improved environmental and climate control, replacement of the skylight, roof repair, and improvements to the glass curtain wall that runs along the east side of the building.

“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.”

Wexner Center programming will continue unabated, using both on-site and off-site venues. “The gallery renovations will give the Center the opportunity to literally reach into the community,” Geldin says. “We look forward to collaborating with fellow cultural institutions as we take the Center’s programs to new locales.” Exhibitions will be presented at indoor and outdoor locations. Confirmed exhibitions include *Away from Home*, a group show opening in February of 2003 in Columbus College of Art & Design’s Canzani Center, organized by the Wexner Center and featuring emerging international artists on the themes of displacement, immigration, and travel; and *Notations*, site-specific works in non-traditional venues, including OSU’s South Oval (a project by Lawrence Weiner, opening in October) and city recreation centers (an interactive, high-tech project by artist Jeanne van Heeswijk, opening in June). Other exhibitions will be announced in the coming months.

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Performing arts programming will sustain its customary pace, using the Center's Mershon Auditorium (which will not be affected by the renovations) and other campus venues, including Weigel Hall and Drake Center. The Center's popular film program will also maintain an active schedule, screening films either in the Film/Video Theater or in Mershon Auditorium. As always, the Education department will use a variety of venues both within and outside the Center for its lecture series, discussions, family events, workshops, and symposia. The Wexner Center Bookshop will likely open a satellite location. The state-of-the-art video studio and editing suites of the Center's Art & Technology facility will remain open and will continue to support artists' projects and offer Avid video editing classes.

A team of architects, engineers, and specialty consultants has been engaged for the project. Columbus-based Schooley Caldwell Associates is the project architect, and Bovis Lend Lease, with an office in downtown Columbus, is the construction manager. Original Wexner Center architect Peter Eisenman is advising on the renovations.

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.

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