

## Press Release

- The first full scale Latin America museum survey of the work of the artist Kiki Smith will be presented at Fundación/Colección Jumex from Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> of May till October 2007. The exhibition **Kiki Smith: A Gathering, 1980-2006**, organized by the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.
- Organized by Siri Engberg, curator of Visual Arts Department at the Walker, in close collaboration with the artist, the exhibition includes works in a variety of media and offers a focused look at over 100 objects spanning Smith's career.
- The exhibit was debuted at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), and later an expanded presentation was shown at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. A special interpretation of this exhibition will be showcased in Mexico with additional pieces and a different museographical design.

Over the past 25 years, Kiki Smith has established herself as one of the most engaging and original artist of her generation. Best known for her depictions of the human form- both in anatomical fragments and in its full figure- she has explored a broad range of subject matter, including Religion, Folklore, Mythology, Natural Science, Art History and Feminism. A remarkable innovator in the area of figurative sculpture, Smith is also an accomplished printmaker and draftsman whose work reveals startling possibilities present in unexpected materials. Often employing simple gestures, she has used the body as metaphor to consider the human condition, its strengths and its frailties.

**Kiki Smith: A Gathering, 1980-2006** is a retrospective exhibition that gathers more than 100 art works from the artist's different creative stages. It is chronologically displayed and organized in three groups of pieces having in common the same media. Thus, the exhibition assembles sculptures, photographs, drawings, paintings and installations created by Kiki Smith in more than two decades of work.

This is the first time that an exhibition by Kiki Smith is presented in Mexico and Latin America. According to Eugenio López Alonso, President of Fundación/Colección Jumex, "This exhibition widens our perspective on the human existence, that is why we consider it a great achievement made possible thanks to the support of the Walker Art Center not just to make Kiki Smith's work known, but to begin a fertile dialogue between the artist and the Mexican scene as well. Working with Kiki Smith for this exhibition has been a complete pleasure and I'm sure it will be a pleasure to those who will visit us."

Siri Engberg, curator at the Walker Art Center's Visual Arts Department, has been in charge of this exhibition, working closely with Kiki Smith for almost three years. "It has been a real pleasure to work closely with Kiki Smith on the organization of this exhibit. The process of becoming intimately familiar with her work has been an enlightening experience, a privilege, and an awakening".

**“Kiki Smith: A Gathering, 1980-2006** is a project that focuses the international community’s attention on our country and allows us to develop projects that have a greater impact on the international as well as the national creative scene □ comments Abaseh Mirvali, Executive Director of Fundación/Colección Jumex”. “The professionalism of the Mexican institutions is being recognized more and more every day by international collectors, and our institutions and cultural organizations, like the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, that will certainly benefit other institutions through the possibility of new joint projects”.

“It was quite an accomplishment to have convinced every collector to generously lend Kiki Smith’s work for its showing in Mexico. We can only hope that this will be the first of many projects to come in partnership with world wide recognized institutions and in particular with the Walker Art Center, an institution that shares with us the vision and spirit to look and reflect upon the Contemporary Art production.”

For further information please contact:  
Mariana Huerta Lledias  
Communication Assistant  
[comunicacion@lacoleccionjumex.org](mailto:comunicacion@lacoleccionjumex.org)  
(52) (55) 57 75 81 88 ext. 116

**Kiki Smith: A Gathering, 1980-2006**

May 31<sup>st</sup> – October, 2007

Fundación/Colección Jumex

Vía Morelos 272, Colonia Santa María Tulpetlac, Ecatepec, Estado de México

Tel. (52 55) 57 75 81 88 ext 103 Fax (52 55 ) 57 75 37 03

[info@lacoleccionjumex.org](mailto:info@lacoleccionjumex.org)

Monday to Friday, 10:00-17:00 hrs

Admittance only by prior reservation

About Kiki Smith

Kiki Smith was born in Nuremberg, Germany, on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1954, to abstract sculptor Tony Smith and opera singer and actress Jane Smith.

Since an early age she was interested in artistic creation. Brought up in South Orange, New Jersey, she enters the Hartford Art School of Connecticut in 1974, but drops out 18 months later.

In 1976 she travels to New York and, in 1978, she joins the Collaborative Projects, Inc.

In 1979 she makes the first paintings comprising the *Severed Members* series.

Her first individual exhibition takes place at The Kitchen, New York, in 1982.

In 1985 she is certified as an Emergency Medical Technician from the Bedford Stuyvesant Interfaith Hospital in Brooklyn.

In 2000 she is honored with the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture.

In 2005 she is selected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and that same year, on November 19<sup>th</sup>, the exhibition **A Gathering, 1980-2005** organized by Walker Art Center, open to the public in the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA).