

PRESS RELEASE

SCULPTURE CONFERENCE COMES TO CHICAGO IN '98

The International Sculpture Center (ISC) announces that Chicago, Illinois, will be the site for Sculpture 17: The 17th International Sculpture Conference, May 21–23, 1998. The conference will be headquartered at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers, ideally situated within walking distance of the Magnificent Mile, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Navy Pier, and hundreds of restaurants and attractions.

Over two thousand people from all over the world who are passionate about sculpture are expected to attend Sculpture 17. Since 1960, the International Sculpture Conferences have earned an international reputation for excellence in addressing the most pertinent topics related to the processes and philosophies of sculpture. The conferences offer artists, curators, collectors, educators, writers, technicians, and other sculpture enthusiasts the unique opportunity to have a voice in the dialogue that will become a point of reference for the entire sculpture field.

Sculpture 17 will be centered around three days (May 21–23) of keynote addresses, panel discussions, and individual presentations by dynamic leaders in the field of sculpture. Technical demonstrations, films on sculpture, networking sessions, a gallery walk, a slide registry, evening social events, tours of local sites of interest, and three days of pre-conference technical workshops (May 17–19) will supplement the main program. In addition, a trade show of over forty exhibitors who cater to the needs of the sculpture community will be open to conference participants at the conference headquarters.

CHICAGO AND SCULPTURE 17

In recognition of the powerful impact that the convergence of Sculpture 17 and Chicago's thriving cultural community will have, Mayor Richard M. Daley has issued a proclamation declaring May 1998 International Sculpture Month. Many of Chicago's cultural institutions will use Sculpture 17 as an opportunity to showcase their finest sculpture facilities, exhibitions, and educational programs, facilitating unprecedented community involvement in the history of ISC Conferences.

Mayor Daley will serve as chair of the Sculpture 17 Chicago Host Planning Committee, a working committee of over forty sculptors and representatives from the many diverse Chicago-area cultural institutions and organizations. Committee members include representatives from the Art Institute of Chicago and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Chicago Architecture Foundation, and the Chicago Artists Coalition, among others. The committee addresses ways to integrate the unique aspects of the host community into the Sculpture 17 program and surrounding events. Plans already underway include sculpture exhibitions at both public and private venues citywide, the expansion of the Pier Walk Sculpture exhibition to include over 150 sculptures at Chicago's newly renovated Navy Pier, specialized tours of indoor and outdoor sculpture collections and architecture, and much more.

“Chicago will be the center of the international sculpture community in May of 1998,” says ISC Executive Director Jeanne C. Pond. “With the ardent enthusiasm and substantial commitments demonstrated by Mayor Daley and the Host Planning Committee, combined with Chicago's unrivaled display of public art and architecture and thriving arts community, Sculpture 17 promises to be one of the most dynamic and stimulating conferences the art world has ever seen.”

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE CENTER

The International Sculpture Center (ISC) is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to advancing the creation and understanding of sculpture and its unique, vital contribution to society. This mission begins with the ISC's 10,000+ international membership base and extends to the entire world through the four-color monthly publication *Sculpture*, exhibitions and educational programs, including the International Sculpture Conferences. For more information, contact the ISC at 202.785.1144.