

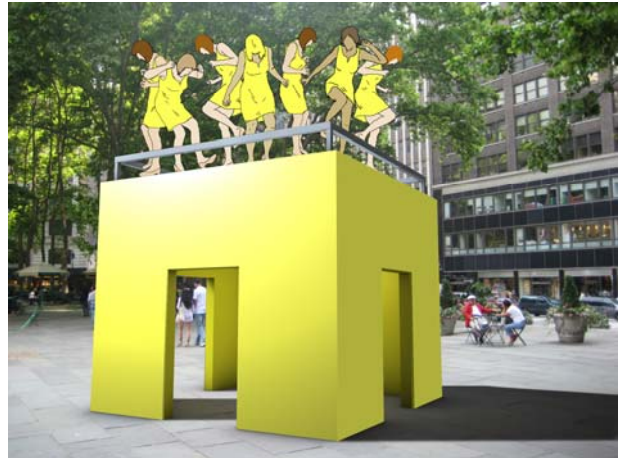
Public Art Fund presents

**Kate Gilmore's *Walk the Walk*
Five-Day Performance Piece**

Bryant Park

Monday, May 10 – Friday, May 14, 2010

8:30 am – 6:30 pm



Kate Gilmore, *Walk the Walk* (rendering), 2010, courtesy of the artist

APRIL 30, 2010: NEW YORK -- For five days this May, Public Art Fund will present a striking new performance-based artwork in the midtown oasis of Bryant Park. *Walk the Walk* by artist Kate Gilmore is a dynamic sculptural and performance-based artwork activated by a group of women's walking, stomping, shuffling and marching on the roof of an eight-foot-high cubic structure. Like typical office workers, the artwork's participants represent a variety of physical builds and types, all clothed in simple yellow dresses and beige pumps. These women will walk, march and stomp atop the temporary structure from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm for five days straight.

Acting out their "work" in an area densely populated by office buildings, Gilmore's performers transform the workday into a visual spectacle and dissonant symphony. Public Art Fund Director and Chief Curator Nicholas Baume observes: "In *Walk the Walk*, the office cubicle has morphed into a room-sized open structure. No longer confined by it, Gilmore's office troupe has literally raised the roof, making it center stage for their visually and acoustically startling performance." Bright yellow walls beckon passersby inside, providing a multi-sensory experience. Once inside, visitors will be enveloped by the reverberations of the stomping feet overhead – inserting them into a dramatic, improvisational audio piece.

Walk the Walk is part celebration but also part protest piece. The structure is painted the same color as the women's dresses, branding the participants to fit their surroundings. Attempting to challenge the physical and psychological systems that regulate our working lives, Gilmore takes internal struggles and makes them public. Even those unable to experience the work in person will have access via online video footage available on the Public Art Fund's website at www.publicartfund.org.

Drawing attention to, and celebrating the vast number of women who work each day in the City, Gilmore's installation questions notions of work, its limitations, and possibilities,

especially as they relate to themes of female identity, physical endurance, and personal expression. *Walk the Walk* joins a rich tradition of feminist art practices in a decidedly new way.

Best known for her single-channel videos of private performances, Gilmore's work often reflects attempts to master arduous physical tasks while wearing stereotypically feminine clothing and shoes. In *Standing Here* (2010), currently included in the 2010 Whitney Biennial, Gilmore is seen climbing a prefab interior column wearing a polka dot dress and pumps. Similarly, *Walk the Walk* juxtaposes the display of physical exertion with the trappings of appropriateness and conformity, raising questions about women's economic and political goals, as well as issues of individuality, class, and social mobility. However, *Walk the Walk* marks the first time that Gilmore has orchestrated her work for other performers, instead of participating as its main subject.

Walk the Walk is a project of Public Art Fund's *In the Public Realm*, a program started in 1995 to identify and champion innovative public art projects by New York-based emerging artists. Each year, the Public Art Fund makes an open call to artists for *In the Public Realm* proposals. Kate Gilmore was selected last year from over 300 applicants. She joins an impressive roster of some 30 artists who have realized commissions in New York City as part of this program. For a list of previous *In the Public Realm* projects and more information visit www.publicartfund.org.

About the Artist

Born in 1975, in Washington D.C., Kate Gilmore lives and works in New York City. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Bates College, Lewiston, Maine (1997), and her Masters of Fine Arts from the School of Visual Arts, New York (2002). Her work has been shown extensively, most recently in the 2010 Whitney Biennial, on view until May 30. She has had solo exhibitions at the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose (2009); Franco Soffiantino Arte Contemporanea, Turin (2009); Smith-Stewart Gallery, New York (2008); and the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (2008). Gilmore was awarded a Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award in 2009.

Artist's Talk

Kate Gilmore will give an artist's talk at the Fountain Terrace in Bryant Park on Tuesday, May 11, at 12:30 pm. The talk is free to the public.

Hours and Location

Walk the Walk will be presented Monday, May 10 through Friday, May 14, 2010 on the Fountain Terrace in Bryant Park, just inside the west entrance to the Park, on 6th Avenue and 41st Street.

Bryant Park is located behind the main branch of the New York Public Library in midtown Manhattan. It is situated between 40th and 42nd Streets, bordered by Fifth and Sixth Avenues.

Walk the Walk will be open to the public and performed free of charge from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm, daily. Video clips featuring an interview with the artist will also be available at www.publicartfund.org.

Subways

Take the B, D, F, or V train to 42nd Street, or the 7 train to 5th Avenue-Bryant Park.

Sponsorship

Major support for *Walk the Walk* is provided by The Jamison Williams Foundation through the generosity of Billie Tsien and Tod Williams.

Kate Gilmore's *Walk the Walk* is a part of the Public Art Fund program *In the Public Realm*, which is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Public Art Fund gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg; First Deputy Mayor Patricia E. Harris; Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe; and Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate D. Levin.

Public Art Fund is a non-profit art organization supported by generous contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations, and with funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

This exhibition was made possible with the support of the Bryant Park Corporation.

About Public Art Fund

Public Art Fund is New York's leading presenter of artists' projects, new commissions, installations, and exhibitions in public spaces. Since 1977, the Public Art Fund has worked with over 500 emerging and established artists to produce innovative temporary exhibitions of contemporary art throughout New York City. By bringing artworks outside the traditional context of museums and galleries, the Public Art Fund provides a unique platform for an unparalleled encounter with the art of our time. For more information, please visit www.publicartfund.org.

Current Public Art Fund exhibitions include *Untitled (Sculpture Silhouettes)* by Peter Coffin at City Hall Park (through May 2010); *The Ego and the Id* by Franz West at Doris C. Freedman Plaza (through August 2010); and *Double Take* at MetroTech Center in Brooklyn, featuring works by Michael DeLucia, Christian de Vietri, Natasha Johns-Messenger, Johannes VanDerBeek, and the collaborative team of Matt Erie and Dominick Talvacchio (through September 2010). Upcoming Public Art Fund exhibitions include *Statuesque*, a group show at City Hall Park featuring major

works of art by Pawel Althamer, Huma Bhabha, Aaron Curry, Thomas Houseago, Matthew Monahan, and Rebecca Warren (opening June 2, 2010).

About Bryant Park Corporation

Bryant Park Corporation (BPC), a private not-for-profit company, was founded in 1980 to renovate, finance and operate Bryant Park in New York City. BPC is funded by income from events, concessions and corporate sponsors, as well as an assessment on neighboring properties, and does not accept government or philanthropic monies. In addition to providing security and sanitation services, and tending the park's lush lawn and seasonal garden displays, BPC provides public amenities and activities, including movable chairs and tables, café umbrellas, restaurants, food kiosks, world-class restrooms, and a wide range of free events throughout the year. The Midtown park, conveniently located at 6th Avenue between 40th and 42nd Streets, is visited by over 5 million people each year and is one of the busiest public spaces in the world. BPC's website, www.bryantpark.org, is available for more detailed information and a schedule of upcoming events.

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