

Lebbeus Woods, Architect

April 17 – June 15, 2014

Main Gallery

Opening Reception: Wednesday, April 16, 6–8pm

For further information and images, please contact
Molly Gross, *Communications Director*, The Drawing Center
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February 24, 2014



Lebbeus Woods, *Photon Kite*,
from the series *Centricity*,
1988. Graphite on paper, 24
in. x 22 in. (60.96 cm x
55.88 cm). Collection
SFMOMA, purchase through
a gift of the Members of the
Architecture + Design
Forum, SFMOMA
Architecture and Design
Accessions Committee, and
the architecture and design
community in honor of
Aaron Betsky, Curator of
Architecture, Design and
Digital Projects, 1995–2001
© Estate of Lebbeus Woods

New York – The Drawing Center will present *Lebbeus Woods, Architect*, bringing together over 100 works from the past 35 years by one of the most influential architects in the field. Recognized beyond architecture, Lebbeus Woods (1940–2012) has been hailed by leading designers, filmmakers, writers, and artists alike as a significant voice in recent decades. His works resonate across many disciplines for their conceptual potency, imaginative breadth, jarring poetry, and ethical depth. The exhibition will feature drawings and models from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's (SFMOMA) collection, along with key loans from other major design collections.

Lebbeus Woods, Architect is curated by Joseph Becker, Assistant Curator of Architecture and Design, and Jennifer Dunlop Fletcher, Helen Hilton Raiser Associate Curator of Architecture and Design, SFMOMA. Prior to opening at The Drawing Center, this exhibition premiered at SFMOMA, and toured to the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University.

Woods worked cyclically, returning often to themes of architecture's ability to transform, resist, and free the collective and the individual. As an architect whose work lies almost solely in the realm of the imagined, proposed, and the unbuilt, his contributions to the field opened up new avenues for exploring, charting, and inscribing space. *Lebbeus Woods, Architect* provides a thematic, rather than chronological, framework for understanding the experimental and timeless nature of Woods's work.

Acknowledging the parallels between society's physical and psychological constructions, Woods depicted a career-long narrative of how these constructions transform our being. Working mostly, but not exclusively, with pencil on paper, Woods created an oeuvre of complex worlds—at times

abstract and at times explicit—that present shifts, cycles, repetitions within the built environment. His timeless architecture is not in a particular style or in response to a singular moment in the field; rather, it offers an opportunity to consider how buildings can impact the individual and the collective, and reflect contemporary political, social, and ideological conditions, and how one person contributes to the development and mutation of the built world.

In 2011, Woods wrote: "In my work, architecture is meant to embody an ideal of thought and action, informed by comprehensive knowledge of the physical world." The exhibition explores Woods's evolutionary thinking through the recurring themes in his projects, including the political, ethical, social, and spatial implications of built forms. Many of Woods's projects addressed cities damaged by war, such as Zagreb and Sarajevo, or damaged by nature, as in the San Francisco earthquake drawings. Additional works considered political divisions of space, like in Havana, Berlin, or Jerusalem. Woods also explored alternative architectures, which could complement and provoke existing tropes, as seen in *Nine Reconstructed Boxes* (1999). And possibly further afield, Woods suggested entirely new approaches to organizing space, as seen in his *Centricity* (1987–88) and *Conflict Space* (2006) series.

ABOUT LEBBEUS WOODS

Born in Lansing, Michigan, Woods studied at the Purdue University School of Engineering (1958–60) and the University of Illinois School of Architecture (1960–64). He worked for Eero Saarinen and Associates and Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo Associates (1964–68) before moving into private practice. Woods concentrated on theory and experimental projects from 1976 on; he exhibited, lectured, and published his projects worldwide, and wrote numerous articles on architectural practice and theory. Woods was a professor of architecture at the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture at The Cooper Union, where he taught until his death in 2012. In addition to SFMOMA's holdings—the most in-depth institutional collection of the artist's work to date—his works are held in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Whitney Museum of American Art, MAK Vienna, and the Getty Research Institute. Woods's projects and writing can also be explored in the archives of his blog at lebbeuswoods.wordpress.com.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Friday, April 18 at 6:30pm

The Drawing Center will host a conversation between curator Florence Ostende and artist Franz Erhard Walther on aesthetics, space, and architecture as part of the ART² program. ART² is presented in collaboration with the Institut français, the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, and FACE (French American Cultural Exchange).

Thursday, May 8 at 6:30pm

Internationally renowned contemporary music ensemble, JACK Quartet, will perform compositions inspired by the encounter of music and mathematics. The concert is presented in collaboration with the Estate of Lebbeus Woods.

Thursday, May 29 at 6:30pm

A screening of the film *Lebbeus Woods and Steven Holl: The Practice of Architecture* will be followed by a conversation between architect Steven Holl and producer Michael Blackwood.

Saturday, June 7

DrawNow!

Situ Studio honors the legacy of Lebbeus Woods with an all-day public-participatory *DrawNow!* drawing workshop on Saturday, June 7, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. FREE. No experience necessary. See www.drawingcenter.org for details.

PUBLICATION

To accompany *Lebbeus Woods, Architect*, The Drawing Center will produce an extensively illustrated 160-page edition of the *Drawing Papers* series that will include essays by Jennifer Dunlop Fletcher and Joseph Becker, as well as an introduction by Brett Littman.

CREDITS

Lebbeus Woods, Architect is organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

The exhibition at The Drawing Center is made possible by the generous support of Elise Jaffe + Jeffrey Brown, Steven Holl + 32BNY, Edward Cella Art + Architecture, Friedman Benda, and Stéphane Samuel and Robert Melvin Rubin. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Special thanks to the Estate of Lebbeus Woods.



ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and

diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12pm–6pm, Thursday, 12pm–8pm.

Tickets: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students and seniors, Children under 12 are free, and free admission Thursdays 6-8pm.

The Drawing Center is wheelchair accessible.

FACEBOOK: [The Drawing Center](#)

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AT THE DRAWING CENTER

Lebbeus Woods, Architect

Len Lye: Motion Sketch

April 17–June 15, 2014

April 17–June 8, 2014

Lebbeus Woods, Architect

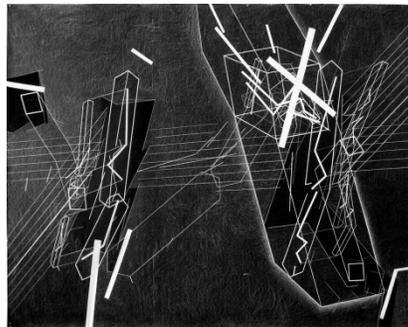
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Images Available for Reproduction

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Lebbeus Woods, *Concentric Field*, from the series *Centricity*, 1987. Graphite on paper, 23 in. x 24 in. (58.42 cm x 60.96 cm). Collection SFMOMA, purchase through a gift of the Members of the Architecture + Design Forum, SFMOMA Architecture and Design Accessions Committee, and the architecture and design community in honor of Aaron Betsky, Curator of Architecture, Design and Digital Projects, 1995–2001; © Estate of Lebbeus Woods



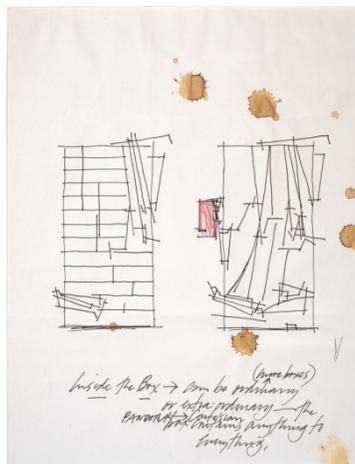
Lebbeus Woods, *Conflict Space 4*, 2006. Crayon and acrylic on linen, 74 x 120 in. (187.96 x 304.8 cm). Collection SFMOMA, purchase through a gift of anonymous donors and the Accessions Committee Fund; © Estate of Lebbeus Woods



Lebbeus Woods, *Nine Reconstructed Boxes*, 1999. Plastic models and ten sketches, 11 in. x 8 1/2 in. (27.94 cm x 21.59 cm). Collection SFMOMA, Accessions Committee Fund purchase; © Estate of Lebbeus Woods; photo: Ben Blackwell



Lebbeus Woods, *San Francisco Project: Inhabiting the Quake, Quake City*, 1995. Graphite and pastel on paper, 14 1/2 in. x 23 in. x 3/4 in. (36.83 cm x 58.42 cm x 1.91 cm). Collection SFMOMA, Accessions Committee Fund purchase; © Estate of Lebbeus Woods



Lebbeus Woods, *Untitled*, sketch for the series *Nine Reconstructed Boxes*, 1999. Ink on paper, 8 1/2 in. x 11 in. (21.59 cm x 27.94 cm); Collection SFMOMA, Accessions Committee Fund purchase; © Estate of Lebbeus Woods



Lebbeus Woods, *Unified Urban Field*, from the series *Centricity* [no. 37], 1987. Graphite on paper, 24 in. x 23 in. (60.96 cm x 58.42 cm). Collection SFMOMA, purchase through a gift of Ned and Catherine Topham and the Accessions Committee Fund; © Estate of Lebbeus Woods