

The Drawing Center

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THE DRAWING CENTER ANNOUNCES

Yona Friedman ***About Cities***

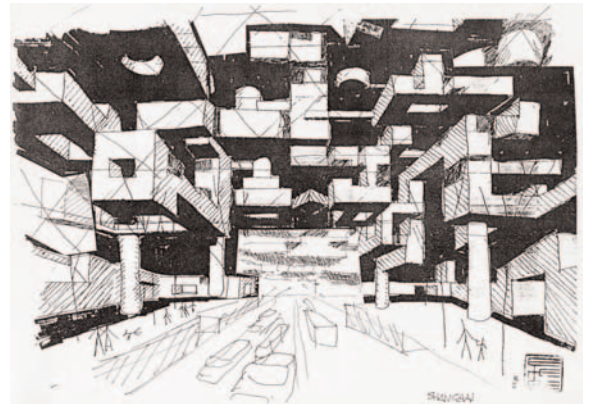
Drawing Room, 40 Wooster Street

February 24 – April 7, 2007

Opening Reception: Friday, February 23, 6–8 pm

Gallery Talk: Saturday, February 24, 2 pm

New York, January 15, 2007 – From February 24 to April 7, 2007, The Drawing Center will present *Yona Friedman: About Cities*, an exhibition of work by the prominent Hungarian-French architect and artist, who, despite his significant reputation in Europe, has never had a solo exhibition in the United States. Showcasing both Friedman's urban-sociological concerns and his urban-design innovations, the exhibition will introduce his work to audiences in New York for the first time.



YONA FRIEDMAN, from the "Spatial City" series, 1958 – 2006.
Photocopy on paper, 11 5/8 x 16 5/8 inches.

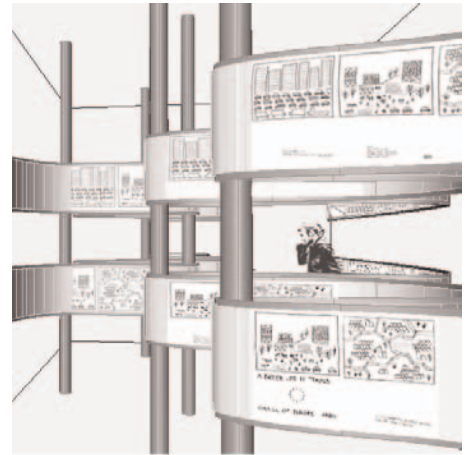
For *About Cities*, Yona Friedman will create a new structure for the presentation of his drawing series "A Better Life in Towns," published in book form in 1980. Images from the series affixed to bands of cardboard winding through the Drawing Room will form a "spatial collage" accompanied by re-workings of his 1958 drawing series "Spatial City." The exhibition layout and its construction, realized in collaboration with New York-based Normal Architecture Office, embody Friedman's interest in making simple, portable, and flexible structures from cheap, everyday materials.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

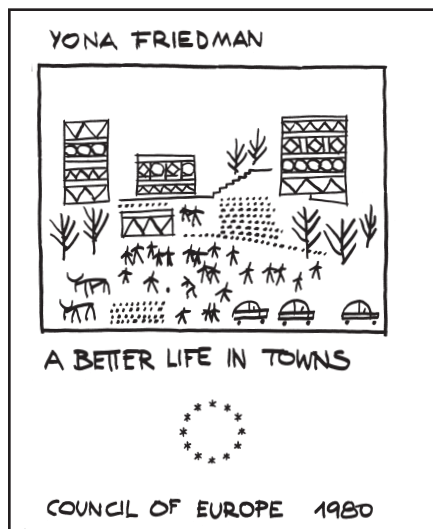
Yona Friedman (born in 1923) is one of the most important and influential figures in the theorization of architecture today, a key voice on the topics of globalization, migration, sustainability, and "spontaneous architecture." His drawings and theoretical writings combine sociology, economics, mathematics, philosophy, and art to advance an idea of design with the utmost respect for the individual and the environment.

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In 1956, Friedman participated in the 10th Congrès internationaux d'architecture moderne (CIAM) in Dubrovnik, Croatia where he presented his manifesto "Mobile Architecture," published in 1958 and later elaborated in "Spatial City." Friedman settled in Paris in 1957 and began exchanging ideas with colleagues such as Jean Prouvé, Frei Otto, Constant Nieuwenhuys, and other figures he met through CIAM. From 1964 to 1974, Friedman served as a visiting professor at several universities including London's Architectural Association School of Architecture, Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton University, and the University of Michigan. In 1975, a retrospective of his work was exhibited at Musée d'Art moderne de la Ville de Paris. Throughout the next two decades, he lectured and exhibited internationally and was commissioned by UNESCO to make various studies of housing issues in Third World



YONA FRIEDMAN, "About Cities" rendering of installation at The Drawing Center by NAO, 2007.



YONA FRIEDMAN, from "A Better Life in Towns," 1963. Photocopy on paper, 11 5/8 x 8 1/2 inches.

countries. In 1999, a major retrospective of his work was organized by the Netherlands Architecture Institute, and in 2002, he participated in *Documenta 11* in Kassel, Germany. Under the auspices of the Serpentine Gallery in London, Friedman recently completed a three-year architectural intervention with a Westminster school, realized in collaboration with the school's pupils.

Throughout Friedman's long career, he has developed theories that extend the possibilities and responsibilities of architecture to involve such issues as responses to poverty and refugees, critical group size for communications, and individuality and self-reliance in the creation of structures. His method of drawing with pictograms and photocopying as presented at The Drawing Center communicates complex notions with a directness and adaptability that invites implementation of his ideas in unanticipated ways. Through his teaching activities and publications, Friedman's theories have been widely disseminated and his influence as a futurist and visionary on subsequent generations of artists and architects can be traced in many areas, especially in the development and analysis of sustainable and self-initiated architecture in South America and Eastern Europe.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

On **Saturday, February 24 at 2 pm**, The Drawing Center will present a free **gallery talk** with curator Katherine Carl.

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As part of a series of performances to be screened at the 2007 Venice Biennale, Belgian artist **Eric Duyckaerts** will conduct a **performance** at The Drawing Center on **Saturday, February 24 at 6 pm**. Duyckaerts, representative of the Belgian Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale, will be introduced by **Christine Macel**, Curator of the Belgian Pavilion and Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris. Admission is free.

Join us for *Simple, Protean, and Spontaneous*, a **symposium** on the legacy of Yona Friedman on **Tuesday, February 27 from 6:30–8:30 pm**. Artists and architects examine Friedman's influence on subsequent generations of architects, urban planners, and artists through a discussion of their own work and the fields of drawing and architecture today. The first panel, from 6:30–7:15 pm, will be moderated by curator **Katherine Carl** and will include artists **Caitlin Masley** and **Michael Rakowitz** and architectural historian **Nina Rappaport**. The second panel, from 7:30–8:30 pm, will be moderated by **Joseph Grima**, Director, Storefront for Art and Architecture, and will feature architects **Interboro Partners** and **Srdjan Jovanovic Weiss**. Co-presented with Storefront for Art and Architecture. Admission is \$5/free for members.

PUBLICATION

Yona Friedman: About Cities will be accompanied by *Drawing Papers 68*, a sixteen-page edition of The Drawing Center's publication series featuring a series of drawings created by the artist to illustrate his belief that "architecture is the art of shaping voids." Not unlike a comic book, Friedman unfolds his narrative in thirty-one simple line drawings with accompanying captions.

CREDITS

Yona Friedman: About Cities has been made possible, in part, with the support of the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Special thanks to Normal Architecture Office.

HOURS & ACCESSIBILITY

The Drawing Room, located at 40 Wooster Street, is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 am – 6 pm, and Saturday, 11 am – 6 pm (closed Sundays and Mondays). The Drawing Room is wheelchair accessible.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit U.S. museum 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.

www.drawingcenter.org

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