



**MEMORIAL ART GALLERY COMMISSIONS ENTRY PLAZA
AND WALKWAY BY INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN ARTIST
Outdoor Space Designed by Jackie Ferrara Will Join
Centennial Sculpture Park Anchor Installations**



ROCHESTER, NY, February 14, 2012 — At the Memorial Art Gallery, the museum experience will soon start under your feet, even before you step into the building. Later this year, the Gallery will begin installing an entry plaza and walkway by New York City artist Jackie Ferrara, internationally known for richly patterned paved spaces that are designed to enhance their natural and architectural settings.

Ferrara’s work, commissioned for the Gallery’s new Centennial Sculpture Park, will join other new anchor installations by Tom Otterness and Wendell Castle, as well as outdoor sculptures already in the MAG collection. “I have long admired the work of Jackie Ferrara,” says MAG director Grant Holcomb. “Its elegance and sophistication will provide a stunning counterbalance to the Gallery’s dynamic collection of outdoor sculpture.”

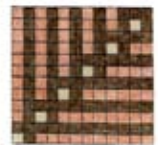
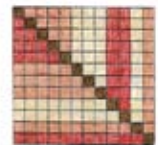
The entry plaza, in front of the main entrance on University Avenue, will consist of a grid of granite pavers and bands of brick that spell out “Memorial Art Gallery” and “University of Rochester” in Morse code. It will connect to Ferrara’s “Path of Colors,” a serpentine red and orange brick walk that will extend to a major new plaza space at the the corner of University Avenue and Goodman Street. The project, which is being overseen by Bayer Landscape Architecture, PLLC, is expected to be completed in fall 2012.

Funding for the project comes from the Margaret M. McDonald Memorial Fund, with additional support from the Marion Stratton Gould Fund.

About the artist

“I think of what I do as creating places,” writes Jackie Ferrara. “My sources lie in architecture and landscape architecture, in graphics and design, in mathematics, cinema and theater. I look for connections: spatial, visual, historical, environmental and architectural. And I look for ways to integrate different kinds of information, sometimes apparent, sometimes subtle, but always intending to offer an experience of unfolding discovery.”

Ferrara was born in Detroit in 1929. She had no formal art education, but enjoyed making things, and after moving to Manhattan in 1952 took classes in leatherwork and pottery. During those early years she worked at Henry Street Settlement Playhouse and became friends with many of the day’s notable artists, musicians, dancers and actors.



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In the 1960s and 70s Ferrara launched her career as a sculptor, first with small bronze figures and mixed media works and later with the pyramidal structures for which she is best known.

By the late 1970s, she had turned her attention to designing and building such public spaces as courtyards, terraces, stairways and footpaths. Often in concert with architects and landscape architects, she began utilizing such materials as stone, steel, tile, gravel and concrete, as well as such natural elements as water and trees.

Ferrara's many public works include the Castle Clinton Tower and Bridge in New York City's Battery Park; Meeting Place in the Seattle Convention and Trade Center; courtyards at Walker Art Center and the General Mills headquarters, both in Minneapolis; an acre of intricately tiled flooring in Pittsburgh International Airport; a terrace and amphitheater for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; a wall of towers at the University of Houston; and Terrace, created for the Stuart Collection of public art at the University of California, San Diego.

Among her many honors are an Excellence in Design Award from the Art Commission for the City of New York (1988); the Institute Honor from the American Institute of Architects (1990); and a Merit Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects (2001). Her work is in major museum and corporate collections across the US and in Europe.

About Centennial Sculpture Park

Centennial Sculpture Park, a community space on the grounds of the Memorial Art Gallery, is scheduled to be open in time for the Gallery's 100th anniversary celebration in October 2013. The strategic location of the park, along with the removal of portions of decades-old wrought-iron fencing, is expected to make the Gallery a more vital part of the Neighborhood of the Arts, open up the grounds for the public to enjoy, and attract tourism.

Jackie Ferrera is one of three major artists already commissioned to create work for the park. Tom Otterness, known internationally for his engaging installations, is creating a major new work—a female sculptor carving a male figure from a block of stone, not far from a “quarry”—to be installed near the intersection of Goodman Street and University Avenue. Trailblazing sculptor and furniture maker Wendell Castle will contribute *Unicorn Family*, a monumental cast-iron work that will serve as a gathering place for visitors to the park. A fourth commission, still under wraps, will anchor the Goodman Street entrance.

In addition to these commissions, Centennial Sculpture Park will showcase works from the MAG collection by such national and local artists as Deborah Butterfield, George Rickey and Tony Smith.

On the web

mag.rochester.edu/centennial-sculpture-park

jackieferrara.com

stuartcollection.ucsd.edu/artists/ferrara.shtml

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