



August 2007

Newly Acquired Installation by Toland Grinnell On Long-Term View at Brooklyn Museum

A newly acquired installation piece by Brooklyn-born artist Toland Grinnell, *Pied-a-Terre*, which explores issues of consumer culture, excess, and luxury, will be on long-term view on the Brooklyn Museum's fourth floor, adjacent to the Museum's recently reopened Period Rooms.

Grinnell's *Pied-a-Terre* originally comprised an apartment for two that folded out into thirty-four hand-crafted matching traveling trunks, each with its own unique function, from master bedroom to kitchen sink. There are even trunks for the family dog. The Brooklyn Museum installation of twenty components includes a stove, a sink, a tableware canteen, a wine rack, and recycling containers, among other things. Taken together, the elements of this elaborate sculpture explore the nature of consumerism and the power of excess.

"I have always thought of *Pied-a-Terre* as having something to do with just how much stuff we all need just to be 'civilized'—100 years ago not everyone had a kitchen sink or a set of chairs—but today you need all of that and a whole lot more," says Toland Grinnell.

In the work the ordinary necessities of everyday life—beds, sinks, and stoves—are transformed into luxuries when they are taken out of context in the great out-of-doors. Goods that seem rudimentary in the domestic sphere appear opulent at the campsite. Grinnell emphasizes that metamorphosis in the piece, where a host of consumer goods, including seventeen suitcases, are not only assembled to make a compact and portable living environment reminiscent of big-game hunting and Adirondack camps but are also repackaged to reflect the contemporary fascinations with designer label luxury goods, in this case complete with the artist's gilded "TG" monogram.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Admission:

Contribution \$8; students with valid I.D. and older adults \$4. Free to Members and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling extension 234.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop; Lexington Avenue express (4 or 5) to Nevins Street, cross platform and transfer to the 2 or 3. Bus: B71, B41, B69, B48.

On-site parking available.

Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.