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**NED RIFKIN TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT
INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE CENTER'S OCTOBER CONFERENCE
Leader in public art discussions to kick off *Sculpture in Public: Part 1,
Sculpture Parks and Gardens***

Hamilton, NJ –Ned Rifkin, Under Secretary for Art at the Smithsonian Institution, will present the keynote address at the International Sculpture Center's 2007 conference, *Sculpture in Public: Part 1, Sculpture Parks and Gardens*, Monday, October 15, 2007. The conference, inspired by the opening of the Seattle Art Museum's Olympic Sculpture Park, will be held primarily at the Seattle Art Museum's newly reopened and expanded Downtown location.

Known as a national arts leader, Rifkin began his career as an art historian before becoming the curator Assistant Director of the New Museum of Contemporary Art and later curator of contemporary art for the Corcoran Gallery of Art. He became the chief curator for the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in 1986, served as Director of the High Museum of Art from 1991 to 1999, and as Director of the Menil Collection from 1999 to 2001. In 2002, he became Director of the Hirshhorn, and as Under Secretary for Art since 2005, he currently oversees, in addition to the Hirshhorn, the Freer Gallery of Art, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, the National Museum of African Art, the National Portrait Gallery, the Archives of American Art, the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Renwick Gallery.

Throughout his career Rifkin has supported contemporary artists, promoted public dialogue on art, and initiated discussions on public policy toward the arts. He has a comprehensive view of the relationship of art to the public and of what art can do in the public sphere. His genuine passion for art and his desire to make art publicly accessible are at the core of his career. His contagious enthusiasm for art and his experience with one of the nation's most prominent sculpture gardens makes him an excellent choice for this key role in the program.

Presented in cooperation with the City of Seattle, Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, Rifkin's address will be free and open to the Seattle community. The 75-minute presentation will take place on Monday, October 15 at 1:00 PM in Benaroya Hall, located at 200 University Street in downtown Seattle. Public seats are limited to the first 200 persons to arrive.

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“We hope those in the Seattle community, particularly those working in the arts, will take advantage of this rare opportunity to see an advocate for the arts during their lunch break,” said Johannah Hutchison, Director of the International Sculpture Center. “Not only will Ned Rifkin set the tone for our conference but also offer some food for thought for a community which has embraced a monumental public art project with the creation of the Olympic Sculpture Park. We are delighted to be working with the Mayor’s Office to make this available to our host city. ”

Online registration for the conference is open. Registration for the keynote is not required. More details about the conference and all International Sculpture Center events are available on the ISC website www.sculpture.org or by contacting events@sculpture.org.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE CENTER

The International Sculpture Center is the world’s leading nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement, creation, and understanding of sculpture and its unique contributions to society. Founded in 1961 at the University of Kansas, the ISC was originally developed as a conference to present new technologies to sculptors. Incorporated in 1978 as a member-supported group, the ISC seeks to educate the public about contemporary sculpture through its progressive educational and community outreach program initiatives, conferences, symposia and tours. The ISC presents an annual Lifetime Achievement Award to an extraordinary sculptor and also the Outstanding Student Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Awards to recognize talented undergraduate and graduate students. For more information about the ISC please visit www.sculpture.org.

For over 25 years, the ISC has published *Sculpture* magazine, the premier publication dedicated to the field of contemporary three-dimensional art. With a circulation of more than 300,000, *Sculpture* features interviews with emerging and internationally renowned artists, commentary on social and political issues inherent in contemporary art, exhibition reviews, and more.

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