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Arts

Iconic public art

Wednesday Dec 1, 2010

A choice to make in the Cyclorama restrooms

It might not be as comfortable as the faux-grass patch that passersby got to enjoy during the summer, but the newest public art at the Cyclorama is sure to make you think.

Artist Doug Kornfeld, who has worked with iconic symbols for the last 30 years, has installed his interpretation of the global icons of 'male' and 'female' in the bathroom stalls of the Cyclorama's women's and men's restrooms.



Artist Doug Kornfeld questions use of ubiquitous icons. (Source:Courtesy of the BCA)

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Having always questioned society's acceptance of these figures and their ubiquitous nature in our world, Kornfeld found the icons have, throughout the years, become less and less descriptive of how men and women see themselves.

"While these industrial icons serve a useful purpose as easily understood signage and signifiers they, at the same time, narrow our perception of the richness and diversity of those they depict," a press release from the Boston Center for the Arts explains.

Having left some of the stalls and urinals without icons, Kornfeld is quoted as saying he is "giving those who use the facilities the option of not participating." But he adds, "Still, choosing a urinal or stall without an icon becomes a deliberate act to not be defined by a particular icon."

The public art in the Cyclorama restrooms can be viewed during normal BCA business hours - Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm.



(Source:Courtesy of the BCA)

Which will you choose?

Kornfeld has worked with iconic symbols for the last 30 years. Choose your stall between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Cyclorama.

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