



Specials > FONS AUDIO

The *Specials* programs focus on projects by artists and curators who have some kind of connection to the Museum's programming and the MACBA Collection. Conceived as an audiovisual project, FONS is a documentary series in which artists from the MACBA Collection talk about their work. This series also includes a specific montage devised for radio, entitled FONS AUDIO, created from conversations with the artists.

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Produced by Ricardo Duque and Lucrecia Dalt.
Documentation: Dolores Acebal.

FONS AUDIO #9

Rita McBride

The work of Rita McBride (Des Moines, Iowa, United States, 1969) is situated on the hybrid territory between sculpture, architecture and industrial design. Starting with the critical appropriation of everyday objects, the artist creates enigmatic pieces that force us to question the nature of the symbols on which our culture is based. In FONS AUDIO #9 McBride talks about *Arena* (1997) and *Jiffy Map* (2008), two works that are part of the MACBA Collection.

01. Summary

Rita McBride's works explore the boundaries between architecture, sculpture and installation. She focuses on seemingly secondary urban elements and takes them out of their context, changing their scale, their materials and their relationship to the surrounding space. Parking lots, bleachers, pipes, HVAC units, water towers and awnings are just some of the targets of McBride's metaphorical transformations. After an initial moment of recognition and familiarity, viewers who confront her works go through an alienation phase that forces them to rethink their relationship to the actual exhibition event, and to question the meaning that we usually attribute to spaces and materials. Her use of materials such as raffia, Venetian glass, Carrara marble, bronze and canvas in connection with ordinary urban elements shows the inherent contradictions between mass production and craftsmanship, between high and low culture. The architecture of modernity, industrial design and minimalist sculpture are three fundamental influences that we can trace through her work, and which McBride tackles with an analytical, critical spirit that is not without irony.

Arena (1997), which was acquired by the MACBA Collection in 2009, is a huge system of modular bleachers, made of plywood covered with *Twaron* and epoxy resin. It takes over the museum space and transforms it into a kind of performative space that invites improvisation. The theatrical presence of *Arena* challenges the visitor, who becomes both spectator and actor of his own artistic experience.

In *Jiffy Map* (2008), another of the works by the artist included in the MACBA Collection, McBride changes the scale of a typical school map template: a reference to all the everyday objects from our past that we no longer use, but which remain ideologically charged in our imaginary.

Another important aspect of Rita McBride's work is her interventions in public space, including *Salford Arena* in Manchester (2002), *Mae West* in Munich (2003) and *Carbon Obelisk* in Essen (2010). Also noteworthy is her work in the publishing sphere, where she actively participates in the production of her exhibition catalogues, which go far beyond simply illustrating the works and take on an artistic life of their own.

Rita McBride studied at Bard College, New York, and at the California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles. She currently divides her time between New York, Rome and Düsseldorf, where she teaches at the Kunstakademie. Her works have been shown in solo exhibitions at museums and galleries in Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States.

02. Works by Rita McBride in the MACBA Collection

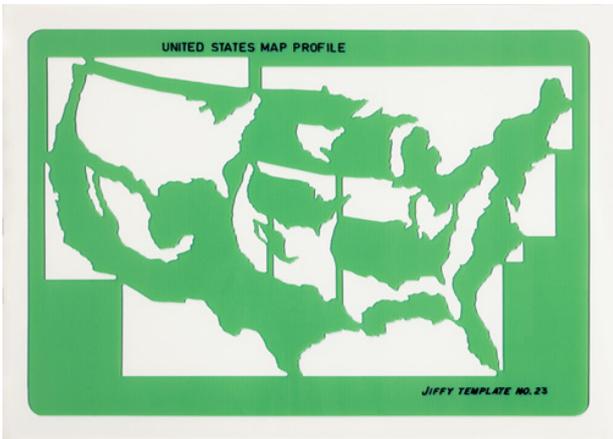
Arena, 1997

MACBA Collection. Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona Consortium. Long Term Loan of the artist

http://www.macba.cat/controller.php?p_action=show_page&pagina_id=29&inst_id=26868



[Rita McBride *Arena*, 1997]



[Rita McBride *Jiffy Map*, 2008]

Jiffy Map, 2008

MACBA Collection. Fundació Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona

http://www.macba.cat/controller.php?p_action=show_page&pagina_id=29&inst_id=26868

03. Related links

Rita McBride

<http://www.ritamcbride.net/>

Connie Butler interviews Rita McBride in the Journal of Contemporary Art

<http://www.jca-online.com/mcbride.html>

Rita McBride works and exhibitions at Galeria Pedro Oliveira de Oporto

http://www.galeriapedrooliveira.com/archive/artists/rita_mcbride/ritamcbride.htm

Rita McBride works and exhibitions at Alexander and Bonin gallery, New York

<http://www.alexanderandbonin.com/artists/mcbride/mcbride.html>

Rita McBride at Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam

http://www.wdw.nl/participant.php?part_id=271&id=73

04. Credits

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