

SUYAMA SPACE

2324 Second Avenue Seattle WA 98121

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Grotesque Arabesque, computer rendering, 2009

Grotesque Arabesque: Installation by Dan Corson

Dan Corson, nationally recognized sculptor and public artist living in Seattle has created a site-specific installation for Suyama Space, the gallery located at 2324 2nd Avenue in Seattle, Washington. The installation will open to the public on September 21 and continue through December 18, 2009. Corson's artist reception will be held on Friday, September 18, 5 - 7 pm and he will present an artist talk at the gallery on Saturday, September 19 at 12 noon. Gallery hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and admission is free to the public.

Grotesque Arabesque is an immersive art environment transforming Suyama Space into an otherworldly, light-filled cave created by electroluminescent strips on meticulously bent, contour-drawn flat bar steel. The glowing cave ceiling is amplified by and reflected in a large reflecting pond below. Saturated indigo skylights wash the gallery in color, while an 18 foot wide mirror multiples and further distorts the experience.

Corson at Suyama Space, cont.

Grotesque Arabesque was inspired by Dan Corson's visits to a series of caves in the Yucatan as well as Etruscan grottos, catacombs, and cisterns he explored during a residency in Civita di Bagnoregio, Italy in 2008. Caves hold a deep fascination for the artist, primarily because they represent for him a threshold into another world, connecting us to the unconscious, our primal history, and the mysteries of natural phenomena.

The word grotesque comes from the word grotto, *the distortion or warping of an image that is reflected in the water of a cave*. The title is further defined with the addition of arabesque: *an elaborative application of repeating geometric forms that often echo the forms of nature*. Here the arabesque framework articulates a repeating pattern of contour lines that define the interior of the cave, complete with stalactites. The contour lines glow with electroluminescent ribbons of aqua colored lighting mined from rare-earth phosphors. Dripping water distorts the architectural arabesque into a grotesque dance of light and dark.

Corson received his B.F.A in Drama from San Diego State University in 1986, and his M.F.A. in Sculpture from the University of Washington in 1992. He was a Skowhegan Scholar in 1991 from Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and a Pilchuck Scholar in 1993, 1994 and 1996 at Pilchuck Glass School.

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For more information:
Beth Sellars or Jym Snedeker
[206.256.0809]

www.suyamapetersondeguchi.com/art
www.corsonart.com

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