



Margo Sawyer - *Synchronicity of Color*

Discovery Green Park in Houston, Texas

For Immediate Release: February 21, 2008 - In the months of January and February of 2008, Margo Sawyer installed *Synchronicity of Color* in Discovery Green, a new twelve acre park scheduled to open in downtown Houston, Texas in early March.

In 2005, Margo Sawyer was invited by the acclaimed landscape architecture firm Hargreaves Associates to join their design team competing to secure the commission of Discovery Green. The team won the competition and went to work on generating a design for the park which will include gardens, an amphitheater, recreation fields, a playground, restaurants, water features and an underground parking garage. Sawyer worked closely with lead architect, Lawrence Speck and the team of PageSoutherlandPage to create an overall design for Discovery Green that fully integrated the park's artistic and architectural elements.

Throughout her career, Sawyer has created installations which translate the ancient notion of a sacred space into a contemporary vocabulary. *Synchronicity of Color* continues her investigations with relationships between color, light, and architecture. *Synchronicity of Color*, her most ambitious project to date, is an architectural installation encompassing both the interior stairwells and the exterior walls of the parking garage. Responding to the immediate architectural and natural elements surrounding the parking garage, Sawyer chose red and blue as the sources of inspiration for the color composition of *Synchronicity of Color*.

Sawyer will transform a typically utilitarian space -- the interior staircase leading from the underground parking garage -- into intimate passageways that encourage reflection and contemplation. Sawyer designed the stairway's window apertures to puncture and articulate the interior's presence and absence of light, and to interact with the intensely colorful, sumptuous boxes that form the exterior skin of the installation. The exterior walls which house these staircases serve as a counterpoint to this meditative interior space. Covered by three dimensional panels in a range of interrelated hues, each of these five walls will resemble a sumptuous patchwork quilt of color. Reflecting the outdoor light of the park, the brilliant color of this large scale installation will provide a vivid contrast to the hushed, contemplative interior of the stairwells. By cloaking the exterior of the parking garage in color, Sawyer endows these utilitarian spaces with a sense of jubilation and prompts the viewers to pause, reflect, and consider their surroundings. Elements of *Synchronicity of Color* will recur on the facades of two nearby restaurants.

Margo Sawyer received her M.F.A. from Yale University and her B.A. Honors degree from Chelsea School of Art in London. The recipient of numerous awards such as a Fulbright Grant to India, the Sculpture Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, and a grant for the National Endowment for the Arts, Sawyer has exhibited nationally in New York, Los Angeles, New Haven, Houston, Dallas, Austin and internationally in the United Kingdom, Italy, India and Japan.

Sawyer recently created a permanent outdoor sculptural installation for the Whole Foods World Headquarters in downtown Austin. In addition, One Arts Plaza in Dallas commissioned Sawyer to create a permanent site-specific installation in their new Arts District tower. Recent solo shows include Holly Johnson Gallery in Dallas (June 2008), The Blaffer Gallery in Houston, The Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh, and ArtPace in San Antonio.

The Discovery Green Conservancy is a private non-profit corporation formed to design, build and operate an urban park in downtown Houston. Additional funding for *Synchronicity of Color* was provided by the Houston Arts Alliance and the City of Houston. For further information about Discovery Green, please visit www.discoverygreen.com

Margo Sawyer is represented by Holly Johnson Gallery in Dallas, Texas.