

Sculpture

Sculpture September–October 1994

Commissions

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John Monti, *Untitled (Black #3)* Utica, New York

Sculptor John Monti's interest in containment, especially the forms and spaces in containers, is reflected in his site-specific piece, *Untitled (Black #3)*, installed for two months at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute (MWPI) in Utica, New York. The artist says his fascination with interior spaces stems from the intrigue of spaces within "...architectural forms, monuments and tomb sculpture...Fabergé miniatures and utilitarian container shapes...." The inside of Monti's sculpture contains a seg-



mented plywood frame covered with black vinyl cement. It is enormous, measuring 40 feet by 23 feet and slopes gently upward to a height of 21 inches. When Monti was invited to create a temporary piece for the 6,700-square-foot space, he carefully studied the court, observing human interaction with the space as well as the museum's architecture, designed by Philip Johnson in 1960. Conspicuously placed in the the Museum of Art building's Sculpture Court, his floor sculpture forced museum-goers to circle its perimeter and contemplate the dimensions of the surrounding environ-

ment. The weighty, black sculpture appears both attractive and occasionally intimidating. Concerning his Minimalist work, Monti says, "...the single most important aspect in my sculpture is the inherent contradiction of making an image that is deliberate, clear, refined, has order and exists in our tangible reality but is imbued with veiled associations and intangible references...." An artist working in Brooklyn, New York, Monti built *Untitled (Black #3)* during a two-month residency at Sculpture Space.

—Anne Harnish

Above: *Untitled (Black #3)*, 1993. Plywood, black vinyl cement, 40 x 23 x 1¾ feet. Photo: G.R. Farley, courtesy Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute.