

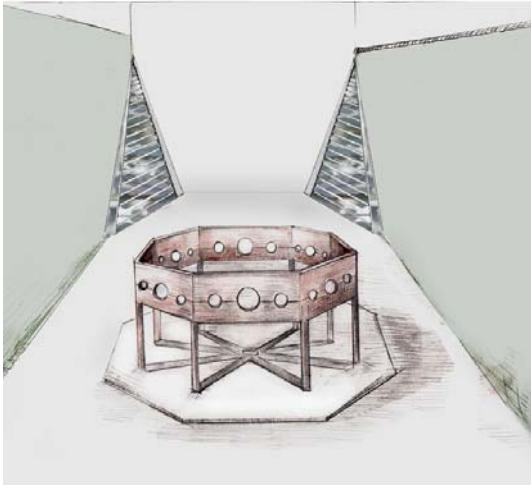
**PRESENTS**

Image: Plan for Village Green (Pillory & Hunting Blinds)

**NATURE'S REVENGE**  
Site-specific installation by  
**REBECCA HERMAN AND MARK SHOFFNER**

**CULTIVATION // INDOOR**  
MARCH 16 - APRIL 23, 2007

**VILLAGE GREEN // OUTDOOR**  
MARCH 16, 2006 - JUNE 4, 2007

Black & White Gallery // Williamsburg is very pleased to present *NATURE'S REVENGE* - new, large-scale sculptural installation by collaborating New York artists Rebecca Herman and Mark Shoffner.

Herman and Shoffner's sculptures, installations, and works in the public sphere consider iconic vernacular architecture of punishment and societal control, such as the pillory and the gallows.

The indoor gallery features *Cultivation*, a pair of 10-foot tall hanging gallows grown with living vines. This evolving sculpture is trained on a slender modern frame into the familiar form of the gallows and noose, questioning whether a human need for punishment and revenge is natural or manmade, cultivated or untamed. Also in the indoor gallery is *Stump/Block*, a sculpture based on the tree stump as crude chopping block. This primitive site for execution is camouflaged and transformed to better fit into the white and pristine gallery setting.

The outdoor gallery features *Village Green*, an interactive sculpture based on the public pillory or "stocks" used in early colonial America. A contemporary interpretation of the rituals of punishment and public shaming, *Village Green* is an eight-sided pillory, 12 feet in width, with three circles cut out of each side to allow voluntary insertion of one's heads and hands. Up to eight people will face each other in the stocks, creating a communal-policing situation that suggests a makeshift, self-imposed jail and societal pressure for surveillance of one's fellow citizens. This modern reincarnation of the pillory refers to American desires for an idealized yet highly restrained "village" community in which society's rules are enforced in the public arena.

The outdoor gallery also features *Hunting Blind*, two 12-foot tall triangular pieces that scale the high concrete walls. The imposing blinds use a naturalistic leaf pattern to mimic the forest and transpose the outdoor architecture used by hunters to this social urban setting. Visitors will be able to position themselves behind the blind for discreet viewing of the octagonal pillory.

*NATURE'S REVENGE* will also include the 2005 video *Broadcast Hut Network*, which similarly explores non-pedigreed architecture. The video documents the artists' series of site-specific sculptures of huts and satellite dishes built in rural Colorado, Iowa, Vermont, and Chiapas, Mexico.

In this recent body of work presented in *NATURE'S REVENGE*, Herman and Shoffner draw on architecture not designed by architects and sculptural works designed by craftsmen and public officials, rather than artists. In previous series, Herman and Shoffner's work has been inspired by animals' instinctive means of survival and humans' "animalistic" methods of adapting to challenges in their environments.

Rebecca Herman and Mark Shoffner have collaborated on sculptures, videos, and installations since 1999. Their work has been exhibited at Sculpture Center, Exit Art, The Drawing Center, Bronx Museum of the Arts, and the d.u.m.b.o. arts under the bridge festival, and they have been artists-in-residence at the Catskill Center for Conservation & Development, Platte Clove, NY and the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. Rebecca Herman has an MFA from the Parsons School of Design (1998) and Mark Shoffner received an MFA from Queens College, CUNY (2000).

Special thanks to the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace Program for their support of the development of the *Broadcast Hut Network*.

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