P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center
Museum of Modern Art affiliate
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PRESS RELEASE

Carla Accardi: *Triplice Tenda*
May 20 – September 3, 2001
Opening Reception Sunday, May 20, 12 – 6:00pm

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center presents the first U.S. solo exhibition of the work of Italian artist **Carla Accardi** (b. 1924). A primary artist of the post-war period in Europe, Accardi contributed to the forging of a new Italian culture by creating a personal style of abstract painting, and co-founding the Forma 1 movement in 1947. ***Triplice Tenda*** (1969) is a full-size circular tent of clear plastic marked in patterns of pale-pink paint. This work, one of the first artist's tents, brings evocations of nomadism and domesticity into the realm of sculpture. The presentation of this work brings to the fore one of the best-known older artists from the Italian post-war period, whose work continued to be influential through the 1960s.

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue, Long Island City, New York and is an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). For information contact P.S.1 at 718.784.2084 or www.ps1.org.

Born in Sicily in 1924, Carla Accardi moved to Rome in 1945. In the late fifties, she exhibited in Paris and Turin. Her painting is joyful and colorful, focusing on organic growth and change. It is also strongly feminist in its investigation of the tent as a form in transition between the domestic sphere and the public sphere. Her first *Tenda*, made in 1965, is a small home-made tent of clear plastic on which painted marks seem to float. It incorporates the audience both into its image and its physical space. The *Tenda* may be an important precedent to many works that focus on domesticity and 'place' rather than on an abstract notion of space. It is also one of the primary early artworks that involve the idea that architecture and experience can be nomadic or provisional.

This exhibition is organized by P.S.1 Senior Curator Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev and is made possible through the generous support of the Dena Foundation, Paris, The Italian Consulate, NY, and The Italian Cultural Institute. Additional thanks to the Castello di Rivoli, Turin.

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Background: P.S.1 was founded in 1971 by Alanna Heiss as The Institute of Art and Urban Resources Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the transformation of abandoned and underutilized buildings in New York City into exhibition, performance, and studio spaces for artists. P.S.1 became an affiliate of MoMA earlier this year and now operates two internationally acclaimed spaces for contemporary art: P.S.1 in Long Island City and The Clocktower Gallery in Tribeca, both of which contain museum-quality galleries and extensive studio facilities for the National and International Studio Program.

P.S.1 is one of the largest and oldest arts organization in the United States solely devoted to contemporary art. Recognized as a defining force of the alternative space movement, P.S.1 stands out from major arts institutions in its cutting edge approach to exhibitions and direct involvement of artists within a scholarly framework. P.S.1 acts as an intermediary between the artist and its audience. Functioning as a living and active meeting place for the general public, P.S.1 is a catalyst for ideas, discourses and new trends in contemporary art. With its educational programs, P.S.1 assists the public in understanding art and provides the tools to appreciate contemporary art and its practices.

Funding: P.S.1 receives annual support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs towards operating costs. Programs of P.S.1 are supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The Office of the President of the Borough of Queens, The Council of the City of New York, the P.S.1 Board of Directors, the New York State Council of the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding is provided by foundations, corporate and individual contributions, and membership and admission donations.

Directions: P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located just across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan, at the intersection of Jackson and 46th Avenues, in Long Island City. It is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, visitors should take either E or F to 23 Street-Ely Avenue; the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Square or 21 Street-Van Alst. They may also take the Q67 bus to Jackson and 46th Avenues or the B61 to Jackson Avenue.

Hours and Admission: P.S.1 is open from Noon to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Admission a is a $5.00 suggested donation; $2.00 for students and senior citizens; members free.

Web Sites: **www.ps1.org**
www.moma.org

For more information, please contact the P.S.1 Press Office: William Murray or Carolyn Bane T: (718) 784-2084 ext 27/ F: (718) 482-9454/ e-mail: press@ps1.org.

For information on the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), please contact Daniela Carboneri, Department of Communications, at (212) 708-9747, or daniela _carboneri@moma.org.

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