

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**



**CORNELIA PARKER
MASS (COLDER DARKER MATTER)
MARCH 21 - APRIL 18 1998**

Deitch Projects is pleased to present Cornelia Parker's *Mass (Colder Darker Matter)*, her featured work in the 1997 Turner Prize Exhibition at the Tate Gallery.

Parker's haunting installation is constructed from the charred remains of a Texas church that was struck by lightning. The Tate's Turner Prize brochure described the work as, "chunks and splinters of charcoal. . . suspended from the ceiling to form the illusion of a cube, dense at the centre, thinning at the edges. It appears at once flat and three-dimensional, but never solid, almost disintegrating before our eyes."

Parker had arrived in Texas for her Spring 1997 residency at ArtPace in San Antonio when she heard about an electrical storm that had destroyed a wooden church. "I went down and asked the Baptist minister if I could have the charcoal to make a charcoal drawing--which is what I consider this to be," she told the critic Louisa Buck. "I like the way that all the emotion of religion and the drama of lightening can be distilled into a very simple quiet piece where all I'm doing is presenting the charcoal. . ." Buck comments how "the objects used in Cornelia Parker's work have usually had some strange experiences on the way to becoming art. . . Cornelia Parker's art is devoted to digging beneath the surface to make the ordinary extraordinary or vice versa." Parker explains that "I resurrect things that have been killed off. . . My work is all about the potential of materials--even when it looks like they've lost all possibilities."

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Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6

Using the most mundane and most basic artistic material, clumps of charcoal, Parker has poetically resurrected the church into an ethereal work of art. *Mass (Colder Darker Matter)* relates to an earlier work of Parker's, *Cold Dark Matter: An Exploded View*, now in the collection of the Tate Gallery. The Tate brochure describes the earlier work: "A garden shed, housing familiar domestic objects culled from car boot sales, was blown up for the artist by the British Army. The residual scorched and mutilated fragments were then hung in a cluster around a single light bulb, where they appeared as a dematerialised form resembling an alternative solar system or eccentric 'parallel universe.' 'Cold dark matter' is a scientific term used to describe the substance that exists in the universe, yet remains mysterious and unquantifiable. For Parker it points to nature's resistance to being categorized, measured and fixed."

Parker has explained that "I am concerned with ambivalence, with opposites, with inhaling and exhaling, things falling and things rising, things disintegrating and coming together. . . with killing things off, as if they existed in cartoon comics, and then resurrecting them, so that one set of references is negated as a new one takes its place."

Cornelia Parker lives and works in London . She has exhibited widely in Britain, Continental Europe and the United States since 1980. This, however, is her first solo exhibition in New York.