



City and County of Denver
Denver Office of Cultural Affairs

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver Office of Cultural Affairs and Denver Botanic Gardens announce dedication of *Albedo* by artist Osman Akan at Denver Botanic Gardens

DENVER, CO — SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 — The Denver Office of Cultural Affairs (DOCA) and Denver Botanic Gardens are pleased to announce the dedication of new public artwork *Albedo* by New York-based artist Osman Akan. The sculpture will be installed in the atrium area of Denver Botanic Gardens' parking garage (across from the main entrance of the Gardens on York St. between 11th St. and 9th St.). A dedication at the art site, followed by light refreshments, will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 18. An artist talk, hosted by Denver Botanic Gardens, will begin at 1:00 p.m. in Mitchell Hall (909 York St.).

The dedication and artist talk are **free and open to the public**. RSVP is required, as space is limited: exhibits@botanicgardens.org or 720-865-3636.

WHAT: Dedication of *Albedo* and artist talk with Osman Akan

WHO: Osman Akan
Denver Botanic Gardens Representatives
Denver Office of Cultural Affairs Staff & Commissioners
Community Members

WHEN: Saturday, September 18, 2010
Dedication: 11:00 a.m. (light refreshments to follow)
Artist Talk: 1:00-2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206

Artist Statement

Among many interventions in the otherwise balanced order of nature, botanic gardens are perhaps the most interesting and worthy of human designs. With their irrigation and lighting systems, controlled heat and nutrients, these spaces are designed by the study of botanics and attempts to replicate and sustain various natural conditions. As a public artist, I am interested not only in new media and materials but also in the challenge of sustainability. The same elements that give a work color, vitality and beauty also can cause its deterioration and decay.

Commissioned as an outdoor, site-specific project, Albedo emerged from my personal reflections on the interplay between botanic gardens and the sun. Albedo has been designed to engage the cycles of the sun with the rhythm of its surfaces as seen from any angle of the viewer. From its concave and convex curves to the orientation of its structure, the artwork changes its appearance only by reflecting

and refracting sunrays from its otherwise transparent and colorless surfaces. Utilizing natural light, Albedo has an inner rhythm that I hope will capture and extend the moment of its audience's sense of place. – Osman Akan, NY

Artist Biography

Born in 1970, Osman Akan studied graphic design at Bilkent University and holds a masters degree in Critical Studies and Integrated Media from California Institute of the Arts (CalArts). Akan is known for his use of unusual materials and his large-scale installations. Since 2004, he has been working with light as a medium, particularly with optical fibers. In 2006, Akan installed his first large-scale public commission utilizing fiber optic systems in Franconia Sculpture Park in Minnesota. The following year Akan received a New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) grant to realize *The Third Bridge*, a commission for the 40th year celebration of the arts in New York City parks. Currently, he is working on a commission for Garanti Cultural Center, Istanbul.

Akan has been involved in many public and private projects and has had exhibitions both in United States and abroad. He has received several grants and fellowships and has been a professor of advanced computer arts for many years. Osman Akan lives and works in New York City.

*The mission of the **Denver Office of Cultural Affairs** is to advance the arts and culture in the City and County of Denver.*

*The mission of **Denver Botanic Gardens** is to connect people with plants, especially plants from the Rocky Mountain region and similar regions around the world, providing delight and enlightenment for everyone.*

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Image available upon request.

