

Inside Art

Carol Vogel

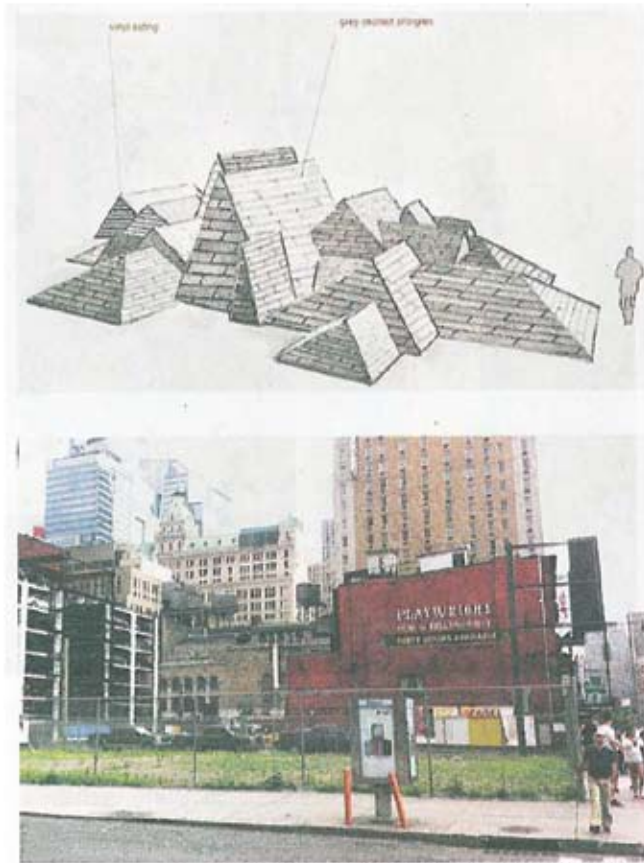


IMAGE AND PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BROOKS/ART PRODUCTION FUND

Top, a sketch of "Desert Rooftops," by David Brooks, the first of several public art installations to be built on the lot on 46th Street and Eighth Avenue, above, during the next year under the sponsorship of the Art Production Fund.

Installation in a Lot

They call it the "last lot." At 46th Street and Eighth Avenue and measuring 70 feet by 100 feet, it is the only empty slice of real estate left in one of the densest neighborhoods in Manhattan: Times Square.

The founders of the Art Production Fund, Doreen Remen and Yvonne Force Villareal, fixated on the spot when, responding to a request from the Times Square Alliance, they began scouring the area for places to present public art projects. The

Shubert Organization, which owns the lot, agreed to donate the site for a year. The Art Production Fund will present a series of projects, each on view there for about three months.

"Desert Rooftops," an installation by David Brooks, will kick off the program on Nov. 22. Mr. Brooks is perhaps best known for "Preserved Forest," a huge installation he created last year for "Greater New York," the sprawling survey show of New York artists at MoMA PS1 in Long Island City, Queens. For that work Mr. Brooks displaced a section of a simulated tropical rainforest, which he then "preserved" by encasing it in concrete — a visceral confrontation intended as a com-

ment on today's ecological threats.

He is once again addressing issues of the natural and built landscape. He will create a 5,000-square-foot piece that is an undulating configuration of asphalt-shingled rooftops resembling those on suburban developments, but here they are conjoined to look like a rolling, dune-like landscape. "It represents the idea of stripping the land that has been overused, overdeveloped and overfarmed," Ms. Remen said, "basically raped of all of its life."

After the Brooks project ends on Feb. 5, there will be installations by Josephine Meckseper and Kiki Smith.