

— For Immediate Release

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Public Art Fund,
Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation,
and the Municipal Art Society announce...

Governors Island
Photographs by Lisa Kereszi and Andrew Moore
Presented by Target Stores
May 24 – July 8, 2004 at the Urban Center Gallery

New York (April 28, 2004) – The Public Art Fund, Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC), and the Municipal Art Society announce an exhibition of photographs by Lisa Kereszi and Andrew Moore documenting Governors Island, the former national military post located in New York Harbor. Featuring twenty-nine color photographs, the exhibition reveals the architecture, landscape, and hidden spaces of Governors Island. Although it is located just half of a mile away from the tip of Manhattan and a quarter of a mile from the Brooklyn waterfront, this 172-acre island remains almost entirely undiscovered terrain for most New Yorkers. The exhibition, presented by Target Stores, is timed to coincide with the launch of a series of public activities on the island as well as the beginning of the Governors Island public planning process.

The Public Art Fund commissioned Lisa Kereszi and Andrew Moore, both New York-based artists, to photograph Governors Island in late 2003. Kereszi and Moore visited several times, photographing the island's indoor and outdoor spaces from late autumn to early spring. Their expanded portrait includes photographs of the historic 18th- and 19th-century military structures, as well as images of the commissary, houses of worship, bowling alley, hospital, Burger King restaurant, grade school, and other places that were once hubs of daily life on Governors Island.

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From Moore's grandly geometric photograph of sunlight streaming in through the Civil War-era jail's arched entrance to Kereszi's concise and eloquent image of an abandoned jacket hanging on a coat rack alongside a calendar turned to January 2001, the images form a portrait of a place standing still at a crossroads.

Governors Island, a major U.S. army base until 1966 and a Coast Guard station until 1996, was returned to the people of New York for the price of one dollar in early 2003. The northern half of the island—the site of Fort Jay and Castle Williams, two important 18th-century military structures now under the auspices of the National Parks Service—is designated both as a National Historic Landmark District and a New York City Historic District. The island also has pre-Civil War arsenal buildings, Victorian and Romanesque Revival housing, and early 20th-century neo-classical architecture. But in addition to these historic structures, the island also has dozens of more recent service and residential buildings, which have stood empty and unused in recent years.

Lisa Kereszi, a Brooklyn-based photographer, is drawn to the margins and details of everyday spaces. Her photographs portray a quintessentially American landscape, but reveal small elements that the casual observer overlooks, like dropped pieces of popcorn on a New Haven movie theater's patterned carpet or a crooked light switch in a motel bathroom. Although the human figure rarely appears in her work, Kereszi's photographs are just as much about people as they are about places and things: "I go into a space that has been inhabited and look for the trails and traces people leave behind," she has said. Like all of her work, Kereszi's photographs of Governors Island are straightforward, unaltered images, portraying scenarios just as she finds them.

Andrew Moore's nuanced and elegiac photographs, made with a large format camera, use architectural form to express the history of public and private spaces. His photographic series have focused on the crumbling grandeur of Havana, the dilapidated theaters of Times Square, and the old asylums on Roosevelt Island. He recently completed an extended architectural portrait of Russia featuring images taken in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Odessa, Siberia, and elsewhere since 2000. As with his images of Cuba—which were published in his recent monograph *Inside Havana*—Moore's saturated color photographs of Governors Island balance elegant spatial geometries with quotidian detail, emphasizing the layering of past and present that composes our everyday surroundings.

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The exhibition is on view at the Urban Center Gallery, 457 Madison Avenue between 50th and 51st Streets. Hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 11am – 5pm.

An exhibition catalogue for *Governors Island: Photographs by Lisa Kereszi and Andrew Moore* will be available July 2004.

About the Artists

Lisa Kereszi has recently had a solo show at Pierogi in Williamsburg in 2003; her editorial photographs have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Nest*, *wallpaper*, and other publications. She received an MFA from Yale School of Fine Arts in 2000 and is currently on the faculty of the International Center for Photography.

Andrew Moore has recently had solo shows at Craig Krull in Los Angeles (2004), Jane Jackson Gallery in Atlanta (2003), and at Yancey Richardson Gallery in New York (2002). Moore was also the producer and cinematographer for *How to Draw a Bunny* (2002), a documentary feature about the artist Ray Johnson, recently released by Palm Pictures. Moore graduated from Princeton University, where he is currently a professor of photography.

About GIPEC

The Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation (GIPEC) is responsible for the planning, redevelopment and ongoing operations of 150 acres of Governors Island. (The National Park Service owns and operates an additional 23 acres of the Island designated last year as the Governors Island National Monument.) A public corporation of New York State, GIPEC is overseen by a Board of Directors appointed equally by the Governor and Mayor of New York. GIPEC is working closely with a wide array of constituent groups, including the National Park Service, and business, community and civic groups to foster new ideas for development of Governors Island, and to enhance the Island's role as a vital and integral part of New York City and the surrounding region. GIPEC seeks to make Governors Island a destination with great public open space and heritage tourism attractions, as well as educational, conference, and cultural arts facilities. For more information please visit www.govisland.org.

About the Public Art Fund

The Public Art Fund is New York's leading presenter of artists' projects, new commissions, installations and exhibitions in public spaces. With over 25 years of experience and an international reputation, the Public Art Fund identifies, coordinates and realizes a diversity of major projects by both established and emerging artists throughout New York City. By bringing artworks outside the traditional context of museums and galleries, the Public Art Fund provides a unique platform for an unparalleled public encounter with the art of our time.

The Public Art Fund is a non-profit arts organization supported by generous gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations, and with public funds from The New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

About the Municipal Art Society

The Municipal Art Society (www.mas.org) is a private, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to promote a more livable city. Since 1893, the Society has worked to enrich the culture, neighborhoods and physical design of New York City. The MAS advocates for excellence in urban planning, contemporary architecture, historic preservation and public art.

About Target Stores

Minneapolis-based Target Stores serves guests at 1,249 stores in 47 states nationwide, including 13 stores in the New York metropolitan area, by delivering today's best retail trends at affordable prices. Whether visiting a Target store or shopping online at target.com, guests enjoy a fun and convenient shopping experience with access to thousands of unique and highly differentiated items. Target Stores, along with its parent company Target Corporation (NYSE:TGT), gives back more than \$2 million a week to its local communities through grants and special programs. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs. Target will celebrate summer in New York with the July 25 openings of the Atlantic Terminal store in Brooklyn and the Riverdale store, located between Manhattan and the Bronx.

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