Mary Miss
Greenwood Pond: Double Site
Des Moines, Iowa
October 19 marked the dedication of Greenwood Pond: Double Site, a multifaceted environmental commission designed by Mary Miss for The Des Moines Art Center's sculpture park, located in the 81-acre Greenwood Park. Miss developed a series of interconnecting elements which trace paths through Greenwood Pond and the surrounding six-acre area. She constructed a pavilion, a bridge, a lookout tower, pathways, terraces, and overviews. One path drops below pond level, allowing the viewer to stand or sit below water level.

"Tracing the various paths through and around Greenwood Pond, the experience of the viewer becomes the vehicle to lace together the various layers of the place—city park, classroom, artwork, wetland, meeting place," says Miss.

I. Michael Danoff, director of the Des Moines Art Center, described the finished project in glowing terms: "This is a unique blend of artistic, environmental, scientific, and architectural considerations, all wedded by the artist's vision." Various Des Moines institutions contributed to the project, including the City of Des Moines and the Des Moines Science Center. Danoff adds, "Each organization involved has donated valuable expertise, as well as countless hours of researching, planning, and implementing designs that have embraced the sensitive character of the site."

Commission: $1,300,000.