

# LENNON, WEINBERG, INC.

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## Tony Berlant

### New Works

An exhibition presenting a large-scale artwork commissioned by the Target Corporation  
March 15 – April 17, 2003  
Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

Tony Berlant has recently completed a monumental work which was commissioned by the Target Corporation. We are pleased to announce that this ten by sixty foot work will be exhibited here prior to its permanent installation at Target's headquarters in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Target offered Tony Berlant extraordinary freedom to conceive this major work without prior agreement on a finished drawing or maquette.

It is an enormous collage of metal on wood. Patterns and printed images appear on the face of thousands of cut and shaped pieces of tin attached to twenty panels with steel brads. The work depicts a panoramic landscape of trees, lakes and hillsides in transition from spring to summer, fall to winter. It describes this world in pulsing, scintillating color and moves from day to an explosively energized, almost otherworldly, nightscape. This world vibrates with life. *What You See Is Who You Are*, the title of the work, suggests that this world revealed is as alive as we are and that we are one with this landscape.

Berlant describes several experiences and artworks as having influenced this work. He reflected upon his own first-hand experience of the Minnesota landscape of woods and water. He is interested in the scroll tradition of Chinese landscape painting in which the viewer travels visually through the artist's conception, which is presented in a long horizontal format. The summer before he began this work he spent a week in Bruges, Belgium and each day he paid a visit to a painting by Hieronymous Bosch. The painting is a triptych of earth, heaven and hell, and Berlant recalls "The more you looked, the more you saw, you could never take it all in at once." Berlant hoped to achieve a similar density of visual experience in this large work and the result speaks for itself. He has created a work which resounds with the spectacular immediacy of a fireworks display in the night sky.

This large work will wrap around the walls of our main gallery and the viewer will experience it as an environment. Several smaller works will also be on view, addressing other landscapes and other subjects.

Tony Berlant is closely identified with this material and method of cut metal collage on wood. His artworks are complex, evocative and intense. They are shaped by his abiding curiosity and years of study of art and artifacts from many cultures through history. And they are equally informed by an awareness of the currents of recent and contemporary art.

Tony Berlant was born in New York City in 1941, and presently lives and works in Santa Monica, California.

Berlant has completed commissions for Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C, (1994), U. S. Federal Building and Courthouse, Sacramento, California (1996), Fox Network Center, Los Angeles, California (1997), Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles (1998) and the Junipero Serra State Office Building, Los Angeles (1999). Earlier commissions include works at the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts and the San Francisco International Airport.

He has exhibited regularly in galleries in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and San Francisco during the past four decades. Works by Tony Berlant are included in many museum collections, including the Art Institute of Chicago, The Forth Worth Museum of Art, the Hirshhorn Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art.