



Flash Art

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Cornelia Parker

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Using chance and intentional displacement, British artist Cornelia Parker explores the role played by context in the assignment of meaning. The suspension and transformation of her materials merge in brainy ways that challenge assumptions of fixed meanings. In *Subconscious of a Monument* (2003), lumps of clay excavated from beneath the Leaning Tower of Pisa are suspended on wires that hover knee high filling a room. The excavation was carried out in an attempt to preserve the monument. What was below is now above, making one aware of the fragile balance that exists between specific site and object. Using direct transformation in *Measuring Liberty With A Dollar* (2003), a silver dollar is stretched into a fine wire equaling the height of the Statue of Liberty. The title suggests an additional relationship between the idea and the symbol.

Other works document the change of an object's status, moving from lost to found to forgotten again. Documenting archeological excavations by amateurs, found objects are moved and reburied on other continents. These most recent explorations by Cornelia Parker bring conceptual questioning to the shifting balance of context, placement and meaning through the movement of material.

—Gregory Montreuil