

[Databases selected:](#) Multiple databases...**LEAN AND LARGE CONTEMPORARY ART DIA: BEACON IS DRAWING THE CROWDS; [THIRD Edition]***Necee Regis, Globe Correspondent. Boston Globe. Boston, Mass.: Oct 19, 2003. pg. M.9*

Subjects: Art galleries & museums

Locations: Beacon New York

Companies: Dia-Beacon-New York (NAICS: 712110 )

Author(s): Necee Regis, Globe Correspondent

Document types: Feature

Document features: photographs

Section: *Travel*

Publication title: Boston Globe. Boston, Mass.: Oct 19, 2003. pg. M.9

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 429754211

Text Word Count 961

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=429754211&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=3620&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

**Abstract** (Document Summary)

For those who like their museum walls painted white and their art minimal, lean, and sometimes gigantic in scale, Dia:Beacon is the pilgrimage site du jour in a string of sites that includes MASS MoCA in North Adams, Mass., and the new Frank Gehry-designed Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College, in Annandale-on- Hudson. On a recent weekday, the license plates in the parking lot attested to Dia's appeal: 11 states or provinces were represented in one row of 16 cars, including such diverse locations as South Dakota, Ontario, Virginia, and Michigan.

If one prefers the train to driving, it's an easy trip to Beacon from Grand Central Terminal. The rails hug the Hudson for most of the route, providing scenic vistas of the 19th-century sort. Kayakers paddle along the shore and larger boats chug in the distance. Keen-eyed observers will spot West Point on a ridge on the far side of the river. Until then, Dia:Beacon is the main draw, although there are restaurants, galleries, antiques shops, and experimental art centers to explore on Main Street. On the second Saturday of every month, the Beacon Arts Community Association hosts a city celebration of the arts, with local artists' open studios and other special events. "This is so much fun. I love adventures," was a comment overheard in a museum bathroom, offering further proof that great art can be fun as well as serious and provocative.

Dia:Beacon is adjacent to the Beacon train station, served by Metro-North trains from Grand Central. Trains run hourly in both directions during museum operating hours. For train information, visit [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) or call 212-532-4900 or 800-METRO-INFO.

**Full Text** (961 words)*Copyright New York Times Company Oct 19, 2003*

BEACON, N.Y. -- The newest kid on the contemporary-art-museum block is the Dia Art Foundation's site that opened here in May. Located in the rolling hills of the lush Hudson Valley, the museum sits on a bluff overlooking the wide gray river, a relaxing, 85- minute train ride north of Manhattan.

For those who like their museum walls painted white and their art minimal, lean, and sometimes gigantic in scale, Dia:Beacon is the pilgrimage site du jour in a string of sites that includes MASS MoCA in North Adams, Mass., and the new Frank Gehry-designed Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College, in Annandale-on- Hudson. On a recent weekday, the license plates in the parking lot attested to Dia's appeal: 11 states or provinces were represented in one row of 16 cars, including such diverse locations as South Dakota, Ontario, Virginia, and Michigan.

The Dia Foundation has long focused on in-depth presentations of individual artists' work, and the same is true at this museum. Wear your most comfortable walking shoes and allow several hours. Exhibition space totals 240,000 square feet, and it all deserves careful viewing. With 22 artists represented, that's almost 11,000 square feet of space per exhibitor, an

unheard-of figure at most museums.

The building itself is a former box-printing facility that was built in 1929. Refurbished, it now exhibits to maximum effect a collection of significant artists from the last half-century. (One can only imagine the cost of all that white paint alone for the interior surfaces.) The ceiling throughout most of the building rises and falls in accordion-like folds, with windows inset on every other fold. The result is natural light throughout the expansive space.

Highlights of the collection include Richard Serra's towering arcs of steel, Robert Ryman's white paintings, Fred Sandback's string sculptures, Richard Chamberlain's crushed automobile part constructions, Dan Flavin's fluorescent light installations, and Sol LeWitt's obsessive wall drawings.

The names may be unfamiliar to the casual arts viewer, but the museum is well worth the trip. The scale of the pieces, the volume of work by each artist, and the immensity of the place make this a museum experience like no other. The work is serious, but there's a playfulness to the installations and a continual sense of surprise as one walks through the galleries. Rather than intrusive wall texts, there are laminated information sheets available on each artist. Way-too-comfortable couches and seats are scattered throughout for resting sore feet -- or contemplating art. A cafe and bookstore are located in a side building, along with the museum offices and ticket sales. The cafe is small and chic, like a model for a new condo complex in Miami, with Euro-design tables, chairs, and coffee accoutrements. A simple menu is available of salads, soups, and sandwiches, providing a needed break from intensive viewing. Recommended for an optimum pick-me-up are the gooey and nutty caramel brownies, accompanied by a shot of sweetened espresso.

The bookstore is tastefully (read minimally) done and thankfully has no Andy Warhol posters, Gerhard Richter umbrellas, or other such museum-shop trinkets. In fact, it's more like a library than a store, with a long table for sitting and reading. The only non-art- book items are a series of seven sizes of notepads and blank books and a Dia pencil set.

The museum's gardens and landscaping were designed by Robert Irwin, an artist who also did the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. A path from the front entrance leads to a platform that overlooks the river and the train tracks below.

If one prefers the train to driving, it's an easy trip to Beacon from Grand Central Terminal. The rails hug the Hudson for most of the route, providing scenic vistas of the 19th-century sort. Kayakers paddle along the shore and larger boats chug in the distance. Keen-eyed observers will spot West Point on a ridge on the far side of the river. Until then, Dia:Beacon is the main draw, although there are restaurants, galleries, antiques shops, and experimental art centers to explore on Main Street. On the second Saturday of every month, the Beacon Arts Community Association hosts a city celebration of the arts, with local artists' open studios and other special events. "This is so much fun. I love adventures," was a comment overheard in a museum bathroom, offering further proof that great art can be fun as well as serious and provocative.

Necce Regis is a freelance writer who lives in Boston and Miami Beach. She can be reached at [necceeregis@yahoo.com](mailto:necceeregis@yahoo.com).

#### SIDEBAR: IF YOU GO. . . Dia:Beacon

3 Beekman St., Beacon, N.Y.

845-440-0100

[www.diabeacon.org](http://www.diabeacon.org)

\$10 general admission

Second Saturday Beacon

[www.nyarts.com](http://www.nyarts.com)

How to get there

By train

Dia:Beacon is adjacent to the Beacon train station, served by Metro-North trains from Grand Central. Trains run hourly in both directions during museum operating hours. For train information, visit [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info) or call 212-532-4900 or 800-METRO-INFO.

Metro North offers a discount rail and museum admission package for \$26.25. Visit Metro-North's website at: [www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mnr/html/outbound.htm](http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mnr/html/outbound.htm). Rail tickets can be used at off-peak hours only.

It is a five- to 10-minute walk from the station to the museum, though taxi service is available. Don't worry about getting lost, the signage is terrific.

By car

From the East and West, take Interstate 84 to exit 11, Route 9D south to Beacon.

From New York, take the Taconic State Parkway to I-84 west or the New York State Thruway to I-84 east to exit 11, Route 9D south to Beacon.

**[Illustration]**

Caption: 1. Richard Serra's Torque Ellipse II and Double Torqued Ellipse. / PHOTO / RICHARD BARNES / DIA ART FOUNDATION  
2. Dia: Beacon, which overlooks the Hudson River, has 240,000 square feet of exhibition space. / PHOTO / MICHAEL GOVAN / DIA ART FOUNDATION

Copyright © 2006 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Text-only interface](#)

