The Wolfe Institute
The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
in cooperation with the MFA Program in Poetry and the Department of English,
presents
Vito Acconci

Tuesday, March 31, 2009
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
State Lounge, Brooklyn College Student Center
Campus Road and East 27th Street

for information: (718) 951-5847 wolfeinstitute@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Vito Acconci’s design and architecture comes from another direction: a background first in writing and then in art. His performances in the 70’s helped shift art from object to interactions between artist and viewer; his installations treated visitors to the gallery/museum not as viewers but as inhabitants of and participants in a public space. By the late 80’s his work had crossed over, and he formed Acconci Studio; their operations come from computer-thinking, and mathematical and biological models -- they treat architecture as occasions for activity -- they make spaces fluid, changeable, portable. They have recently completed an artificial island in Graz, a clothing store in Tokyo, an elevated subway-station in Coney Island. About to be built is a building perimeter in Toronto and a street through a building in Indianapolis. They are currently working on a three-story building in Milan, a bridge-system and park near Delft, and an amphitheatre in Stavanger.

City of Words

Assuming that the technology of the later 20th century has devalued material space, assuming that space, in the early 21st century, is not “in place” but “in mind”; assuming that computers and E-mail have reintroduced and revise and revitalized “writing – what we have produced is a page that becomes building, lines of text that bend and fold into buildings, a city built up out of words. In the beginning there was the word, but then again, it’s only words.

New York Times Magazine
September 28, 1997