Artist Uses Quikrete Products in New Museum Exhibit

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Chris Burden uses Quikrete products in his newest work on display at the New Museum.

The Quikrete Companies founded an unexpected place in the New Museum’s presentation of “Chris Burden: Extreme Measures,” the recently exhibited artist’s first New York survey and his first major U.S. exhibition in more than two decades. The exhibition, which is on view from Oct. 19, 2013 to Jan. 12, 2014, presents a selection of Burden’s work across various mediums spanning his forty-year career including Beehive Bunker and A Tale of Two Cities featuring Quikrete products.

The exhibition at the New Museum features a selection of Burden’s work focused on marvells of engineering, such as buildings, vehicles, war machines and bridges, consistently engaging with the representation of masculinity and the destructive potential latent in engineering pursuits. With that in mind, the use of Quikrete materials for the Beehive Bunker and A Tale of Two Cities exhibits made perfect sense.

Beehive Bunker is a low cost defensive structure to be occupied by one to three persons. This monumental dwelling accommodates more than 500 bags of Quikrete Concrete Mix and more than 500 bags of Quikrete Fast-Setting Concrete Mix in a stacked pattern to create an imposing environment that treats the landscape of the city as a place of constant threat to the individual body. The bags of concrete were watered in the gallery, so it hardened during installation process.

A Tale of Two Cities features war toys to model a hypothetical conflict between two warring city-states. The installation amplifies the mask staging of violence typical of male childhood play in order to make contemporary warfare. Installation of the two miniature cities covering about 4,000 square feet required 1,040 bags of Quikrete All-Purpose Sand covered by approximately 5,000 toy, plants and boulders.

For more information on the “Chris Burden: Extreme Measures” presentation at the New Museum, please visit http://www.newmuseum.org/exhibitions/view/chris-burden-extreme-measures.