

LINDA BRENNER

PROJECT SUMMARY

THE GHOST CATS

My project consists of thirty-nine white plaster castings of cats posed in various natural positions. These sculptures represent the colony of cats that took up residence in the prison grounds after the closing of the penitentiary in 1971. Throughout the prison castings will be dispersed (primarily outdoors) located in areas that can be seen by the public on self guided tours.

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THE GHOST CATS

TAKE CARE OF GOD'S ANIMALS AND HE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

This hand written sign hung above a feeding station at ESP. For twenty-eight years Dan McCloud (Dan the Cat Man) came to the prison three times a week to care for and feed his 30-40 jailhouse cats. In 1993 the cats were trapped and neutered by the Spayed Club. The population dwindled and several years later Dan turned the cat care over to the staff at ESP. The "ghosts" of these cats will be represented by white castings. The cats will be modeled to reflect the physical body type of those from the original colony - muscular, stocky, medium to long hair - similar to the Maine Coon Cat, one of the oldest natural breeds in North America. The poses will vary and groupings of up to six animals will be placed in areas which can be seen by the public touring the prison but out of reach to touch.

The castings will be made from "Hydrocal" gypsum reinforced with metal rods. Using only five molds, the poses can be altered by changing the direction of the heads and tails and by placing the cats so they are viewed from different directions.

The installation of the seated and sleeping cats would require no mounting. The standing and walking cats could be mounted on a board when necessary, for stabilization, and then placed in position.

The maintenance would be minimal since normal weathering would create a natural patina. If any cat is damaged so as to compromise its appearance, I would have several spare castings available for replacement.

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Having toured the facility, I have chosen the following sites to place the cats:

- the top of the existing yard wall on the East side of cell block #4
- the areas seen through the windows on the West side of the South Corridor
- the areas seen from the windows in the rotunda
- the upper level balcony in cell block #7 seen from the staircase

REQUESTED FUNDING

MATERIAL COSTS:

Rubber Mold Compound	\$360 (3 gal.@ \$111 + shipping)
Moulding Plaster	\$ 34 (2 bags @ \$17)
Hydrocal	\$240 (800 LBS @ \$0.301)
Burlap	\$ 30
Reinforcing Rods	\$ 45 (10i x 3/4i @ \$3)
Misc. Hardware, Plywood, etc	\$100
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	\$809

If I don't get funding I could apply for a WOO grant from the Leeway Foundation. I could also use some money from my savings. (I did not include labor costs for an assistant which I plan to finance myself)

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SLIDE LIST

1. **SEATED CAT** “Hydrocal” casting 15”Hx7”x10”
2. **SLEEPING CAT** “Hydrocal” casting 5”Hx12”x12”
3. **SLEEPING CAT** (view 2)
4. **SQUIRREL #1** plaster model 7”Hx15”x5”
5. **SQUIRREL #2** plaster model 8”Hx20”x5”
6. **SQUIRREL #3** clay model in progress 6 ½”Hx18”x5”
7. **CAT WALK** “Hydrocal” casting on pine base 16”Hx120”x6”
8. **CAT WALK** (view 2)
9. **WALKING CATS WITH A CAT** “Hydrocal” castings on pine base 34”Hx60”x11”

**LINDA BRENNER
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EDUCATION:

Tyler School of Fine Arts	1962-63	Sculpture
Rhode Island School Of Design	1958-62	BFA, Sculpture
University of Pennsylvania	Summer 1959	Liberal Arts

TEACHING POSITIONS:

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts	Instructor, Drawing & Sculpture	1988-present
Community College of Philadelphia	Guest Lecturer	Nov. 1992
Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris	Guest Lecturer	March 1992
Spring Garden College	Instructor, Dept. of Architecture Drawing and Design Studio	1983-90

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION:

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts	Chairman, Sculpture Dept.	1992-1995
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ARTIST RESIDENCY:

The Hambidge Center	Rabun Gap, Georgia	Fall 1998 & Fall 1999
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GRANTS:

The Leeway Foundation, Window of Opportunity Award	September 1999
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts - Special Opportunity Stipend	September 2002

EXHIBITIONS: (selected)

2004 "The Ghost Cats" artist installation at Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, Philadelphia, PA
"ArchiSculpture" Foundation Beyeler, Basel, Switzerland (Kahn Model of the Capitol of Bangladesh)

2003 "Art of the State: Pennsylvania 2003" The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA

2002 "Dual Identities - Seven Philadelphia Artists/Academics" Philadelphia Art Alliance, Phila.,PA
"Non-objective Painting & Sculpture" - Art in City Hall Philadelphia, PA

2000 Solo Exhibition - Burt Hill/ Philadelphia, Architects, Phila, PA
"New Directions '2K'" Barrett Art Center, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.
"National Small Sculpture Exhibition 2000" Hattiesburg, MS

1999 "Contemporary Relics" William King Arts Center, Abingdon, VA

1998 "Sculpture: The 3-D Process" The Charles Sumner School Museum, Washington, D.C.
"Then and Now" 50th Anniversary Exhibition of LBI Foundation of the Arts and Sciences, Loveladies, NJ

1997 "20th Annual Buck's Co. Sculpture Show" James Michener Museum of Art, Doylestown, PA
"Faculty Exhibition" Museum of American Art of the PA Academy of the Fine Arts, Phila.,PA

1995 "Distinguished Artist Exhibition" Artists House Gallery, Phila., PA

1992 International Sculpture Conference Studio Tour, Phila., PA

1991 "In Our Circle" James Michener Museum, Doylestown, PA

1990 "RISD 12 x 12 Exhibition" Woods Gerry Gallery of the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI
Solo Exhibition - ETS Conference Center, Princeton, NJ

PROJECTS AND COMMISSIONS:

2003

EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY

Commissioned to fabricate a model (1/2" = 1'-0") showing a section of the original cell block #1 including the mechanical systems. The model is part of the audio tour on permanent exhibition in the Prison Museum.

2002

PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART : MASTER PLAN MODEL

Commissioned to fabricate a fundraising model (1" = 60') Designed in collaboration with Vitetta Architects

2001

VANNA VENTURI HOUSE

$\frac{3}{4}$ " = 1' - 0" model commissioned by PMA for the exhibition "Out of the Ordinary" - the traveling exhibition opened at the Philadelphia Museum of Art June 10 - August 5, 2001 and has had venues at the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art and the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh

1999-2000

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA: HAMILTON VILLAGE COMPETITION / KIREN, TIMBERLAKE

Worked with project team to design and fabricate a presentation model for University Housing. The architect was selected to proceed with a feasibility study to renovate and make additions to the residential high-rise buildings. A second model was fabricated to present the architects design to the board of directors.

1994

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, GRADUATE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

Designed and executed an edition of bronze commemorative awards including presentation packaging.

EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY: CRUCIBLE OF GOOD INTENTIONS

Philadelphia Museum of Art, July 16- September 11, 1994

Commissioned to fabricate two models based on John Haviland's master plan to express what had been constructed on the site by the mid-1830s. Both models involved research to illustrate what existed.

SITE MODEL: $\frac{1}{16}$ " = 1' - 0" cast plaster

SECTION MODEL OF CELL BLOCK #7: $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1' - 0" , wood and plaster

Both models are on permanent exhibit at the Prison Museum at the site and are now included on the audio tour

1990-1991

LOUIS I. KAHN: IN THE REALM OF ARCHITECTURE

Organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA - Fabrication of five new models, based on Kahn's designs, for the exhibition; a collaborative project with two other artists.

- 1. Memorial to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs**, Battery Park, NY
 1 " = 1' - 0" acrylic, plywood, and lead, including figure sculptures modeled and cast in a lead alloy.
- 2. Trenton Bath House**, Trenton, NJ
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1' - 0" in basswood
- 3. City Tower Project**, Philadelphia, PA
 $\frac{1}{16}$ " = 1' - 0" model in zinc alloy, acrylic, and computer graphics.
- 4. Meeting House of the Salk Institute**, La Jolla, California
 $\frac{1}{16}$ " = 1' - 0" in basswood
- 5. Capital of Bangladesh**, Dhaka, Bangladesh
 $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1' - 0" basswood, plastic and zinc

This traveling exhibit opened at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in October 1991 and continued on to Paris (Centre Georges Pompidou), New York (Museum of Modern Art), Gunma, Japan (Museum of Modern Art), Los Angeles (MOCA), Fort Worth (Kimball Art Museum), and Columbus, OH (Wexner Center for the Arts).

The models are in the permanent collection of the Architectural Archives at the University of PA

1990

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

Designed and executed a sculptural medallion; supervised casting in bronze.

1982

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, Washington, DC

Designed and fabricated a space study model $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1' - 0" of Rotunda and North Lobby of the West Building in polychrome plaster. The model was presented to the Building Committee by Carter Brown in January, 1983, for consideration of major structural changes to the building. The model was successful in convincing the Committee to follow the proposed plan and remains in the permanent collection of the Museum.

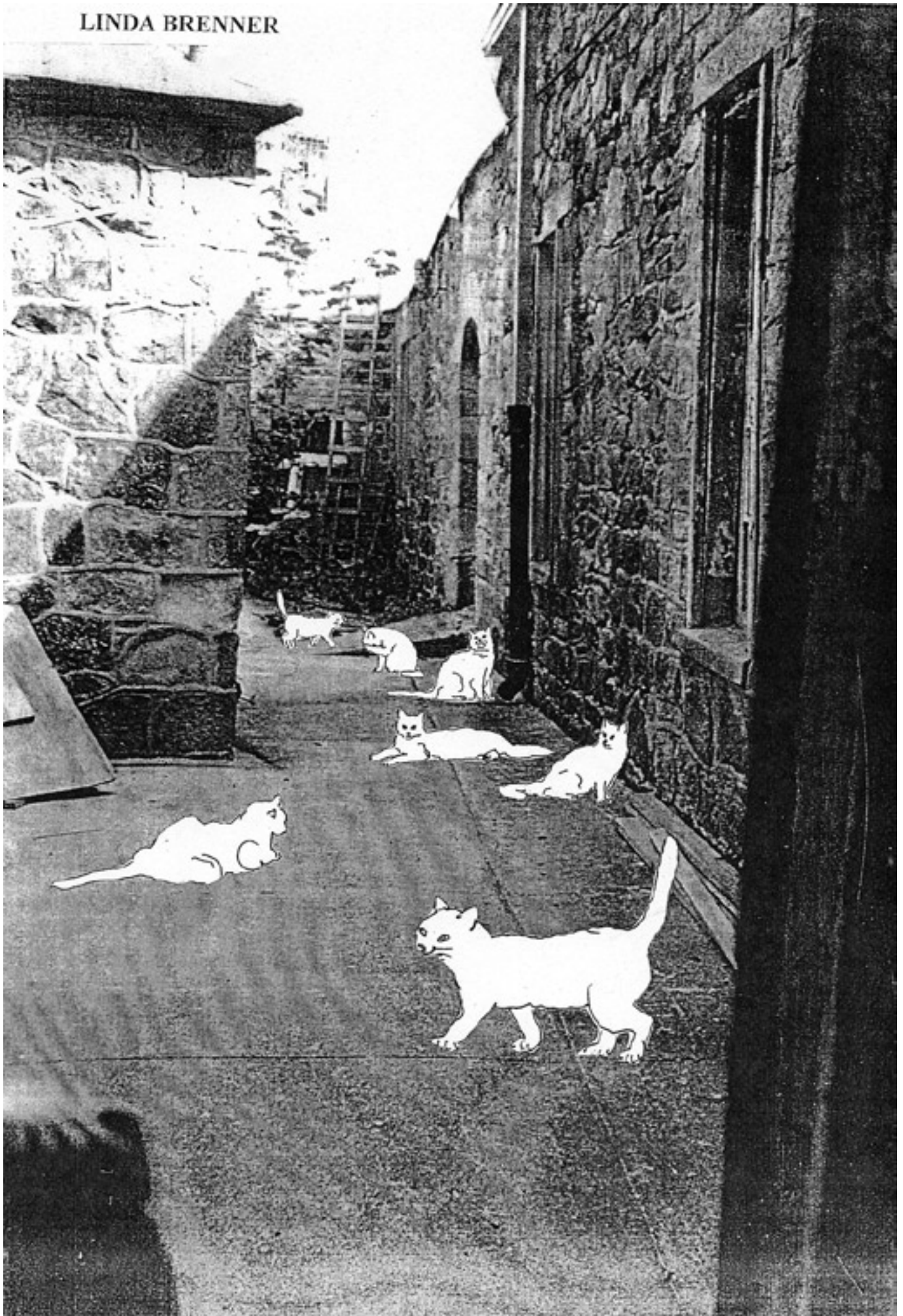
CLARENCE MOORE HOUSE, Philadelphia, PA

Reproduced sculpture "Boy with Dolphins" from archival photographs and drawings. Cast in a facsimile material for installation in entryway in conjunction with restoration of the bldg.

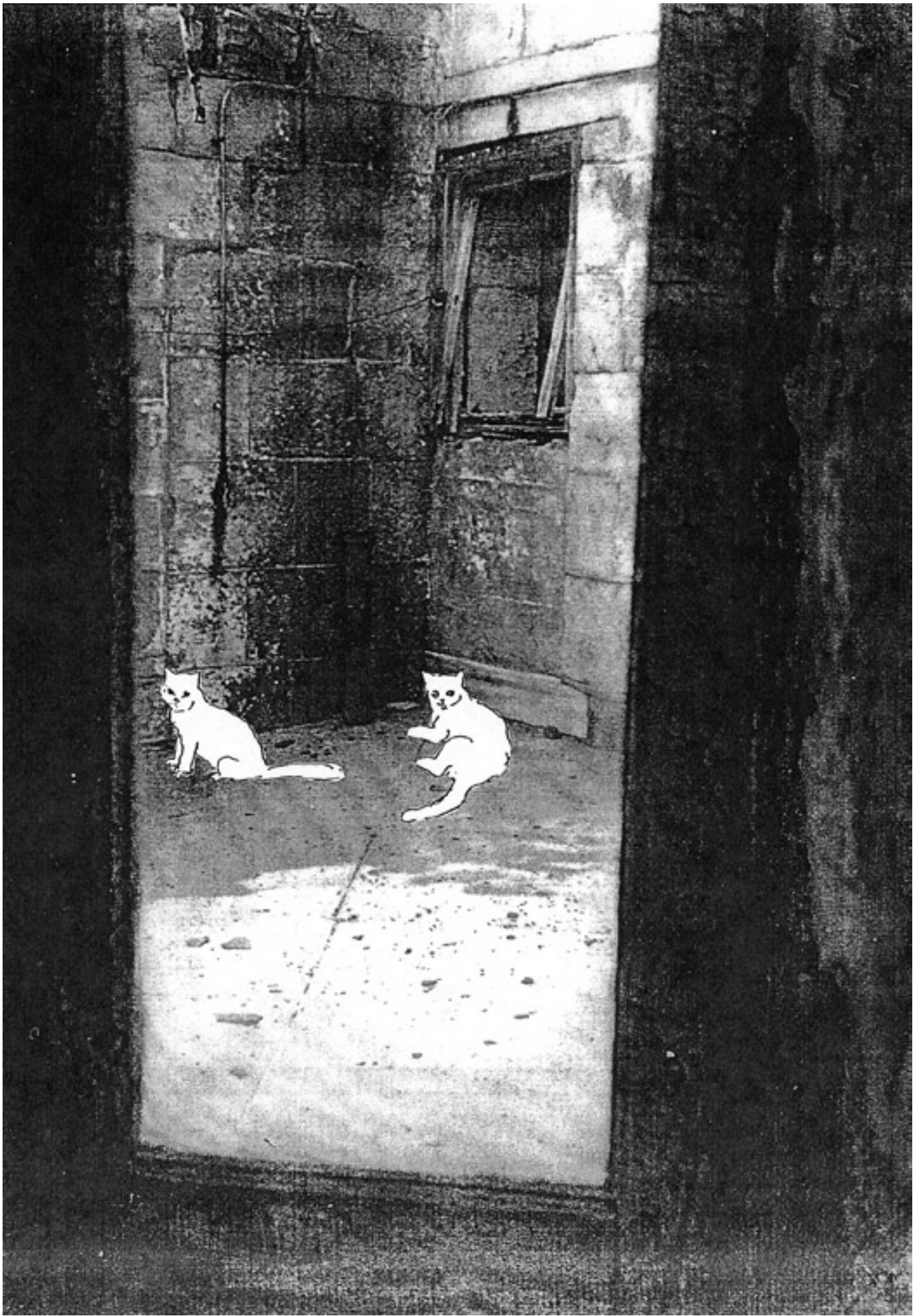
1994: Plaster cast of the sculpture included in exhibition "Graced Places: The Architecture of Wilson Eyre," Arthur Ross Gallery, University of Pennsylvania.

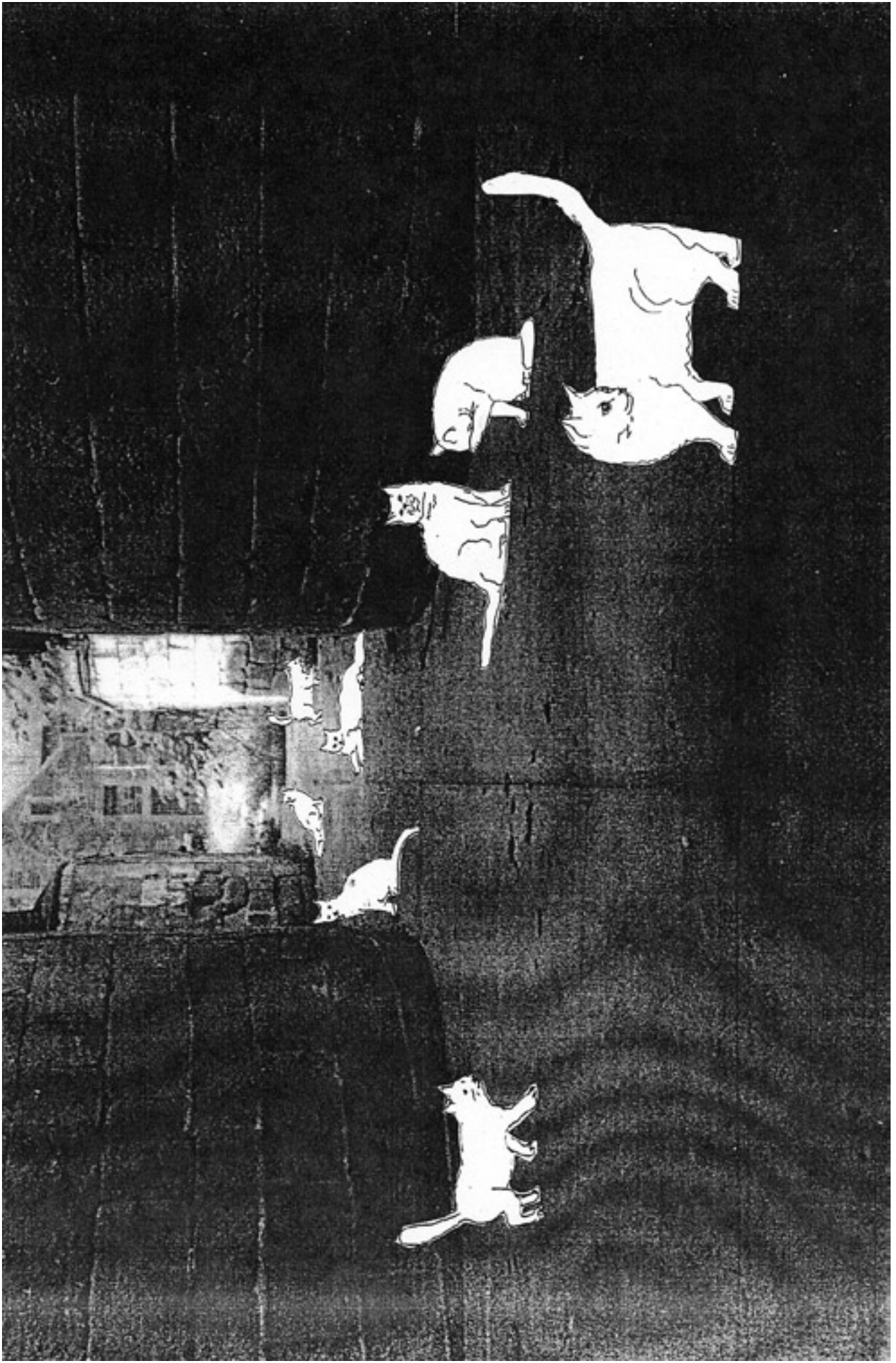
1996: Plaster cast of sculpture donated to the cast collection at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

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SEEN FROM A ROTUNDA WINDOW
LOOKING BETWEEN THE HOSPITAL & CELL BLOCK #3





SEEN FROM A ROTUNDA WINDOW - BETWEEN CELL BLOCKS #5 & #6

