

PRIVATE VIEWS

The Americas

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Public art's democratic ideals and American vernacular architecture have long fascinated Iranian-born artist Siah Armajani, who is renowned for civic-minded projects, like his “Reading Rooms” and “Reading Gardens.” On September 4 Armajani mounts his inaugural solo exhibition at Alexander Gray, where he shows a selection of drawings and sculptures from his recent “Tombs” series. Described by the artist as “contradicting” his previous symbolic work—“In the Tombs, there is no semiology, no hidden meaning”—the simple forms pay homage to intellectuals like Walt Whitman, John Dewey, and the Persian poet Nima Yushij. He’ll also include a drawing for his own tomb based on the architecture of Minneapolis, his home base. Armajani explains that he developed the idea of creating his tomb from the Russian Constructivists, particularly Kazimir Malevich.



ALEXANDER GRAY ASSOCIATES, NEW YORK: