

## Jackie Ferrara

**MEDIUM** Sculpture

**NATIONALITY** American

**LIFE DATES** Detroit, Michigan 1929 -

Jackie Ferrara received no formal artistic training prior to becoming involved in New York's art scene of the 1950s and 1960s. Born in Detroit in 1929, she moved to New York in 1952, where she took classes in pottery and leatherwork and became involved with dance and theatre through a job at the Henry Street Settlement. Ferrara attended happenings and performances at the Judson Church and Judson Gallery, and was a performer in two of Claes Oldenberg's *Happenings*.

During this period, Ferrara began making wood sculptures that evolved from her earlier creations of domestic furniture, such as cupboards and shelves. These wooden forms developed into the pieces she became known for in the 1970s, when she worked with stacked horizontal slats of pine, poplar, and birch. Their forthright forms refer to ziggurats, pyramids, doorways, and courtyards, and like her other works from this period, derive generally from non-Western architecture.

In 1989 Ferrara completed her first public commission using permanent materials, a collaboration with architect William Pederson for Hamm Plaza, a new urban space in Minneapolis. Since then she has completed numerous public spaces, collaborating with major architects and landscape architects, including Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, Peter Eisenmann, and M. Paul Friedberg. Works by Ferrara are in the collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Brooklyn Museum of Art; the Guggenheim Museum, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and the Louisiana Museum, Humlebæk. She lives and works in New York City.

