

LITA ALBUQUERQUE

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STARFIELD

Place de la Concorde

INTRODUCTION

Lita Albuquerque is a French-American Artist who lives in Los Angeles. For a number of years she has developed site-specific installations that come out of the Land Art movement and poetically link the Earth to the sky in dialogue with the environment in which they are surrounded.

Of international renown, Lita Albuquerque has created public installations (permanent and ephemeral) notably in the United States, Japan and Egypt. Her latest project to date *Stellar Axis: Antarctica*, occurred in December 2006 on the Antarctic continent. On a very large area icy surface, she installed 99 blue spheres of various diameters (going from 30 to 120 cm in diameter). Each sphere on the ice, represented the exact alignment to a star above at the moment of the Summer Solstice, the entirety of the installation created a field of stars, a temporary projection of the sky onto the earth. *Stellar Axis: Antarctica* is the first art installation that has ever been created on the continent of Antarctica.

In a desire for continuity, Lita Albuquerque is proposing to create a similar installation but in an opposite environment: a great capital and urban center.

Place de la Concorde in the city of Paris, with its central location and openness to the alignments of urban perspectives, makes it the ideal placement for such an installation. The obelisk, in the middle of Place de La Concorde, a symbolic link between the earth and the sky, will be the reference point for the location of the stars onto the plaza.

For this installation Albuquerque envisions to substitute the blue spheres created for *Stellar Axis: Antarctica* with golden reflective spheres, creating a visual unity with the obelisk and the lights of Paris, but also creating a play of reflection with the environment of the Plaza and the stars above. Approximately forty spheres from 60 to 180 cm in diameter would be placed in the center and the sidewalks of the Plaza. This installation would not in anyway obstruct the circulation of cars, this rotating movement being an integral part of the installation, a reference to the motion of the stars seen from Earth.

Tamara Devrient, independent curator
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