

# WEEKEND Arts FINE ARTS LEISURE

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## A Biennial Bustin' Out of the Whitney

*Old mattresses springs  
Crates of Ping Pong balls  
Gallons of Gatorade  
Boxes of twigs  
Fragments of sidewalk grating  
A Brooks Brothers suit  
Artificial hair  
Rolls of colored ribbon  
A white cotton tent  
Nine cots*

This is not a shopping list for a Boy Scout adventure but a small sampling of materials that will turn up at the 2008 Whitney Biennial when it opens on Thursday.

**CAROL VOGEL**  
**INSIDE ART**

This 74th incarnation promises to be more than the usual love-it-or-hate-it survey of contemporary art. Occupying all but one floor of the Whitney Museum of American Art's Madison Avenue home, the show will also spill over into the Park Avenue Armory on 67th Street for several weeks.

From Thursday through March 23 a steady schedule of performances will unfold in the armory's cavernous drill shed, and free exhibitions and activities will take over its historic period rooms, many opening to the public for the first time since a recent renovation.

Visitors to the armory can also be participants: joining in a 24-hour dance marathon (a performance about endurance) or sleeping over in a second-floor room filled with ambient sound compositions and a performance by the artist and musician DJ Olive.

On some nights, visitors may go for drinks in the armory's former Field and Staff Room, a richly wood-paneled interior decorated with taxidermy moose heads, bobcats and squirrels. The Los Angeles-born artist Eduardo Sarabia has designed a ceramic bar for the room and bar stools in the shape of elephant feet. He has also made the tequila and

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An eagle's nest on the Whitney's overhang is part of "Animal Estates," an installation by Fritz Haeg in the 2008 Biennial, which opens on Thursday.