

ARTFORUM

PREVIEWS

BARCELONA

"RITA MCBRIDE: PUBLIC TENDER"

MUSEU D'ART CONTEMPORANI •
May 19–September 24 • Curated by
Bartomeu Marí • Industrial designer,
public artist, sculptor, architect, producer,
author . . . Rita McBride has forged
the path for the '90s generation of
multidisciplined, unconventional
sculptors of mellifluous space, people,
environments, and, most particularly,
products. It's a wonder that she's not yet
conquered the realm of performance (an
area so de rigueur today), but perhaps,
given McBride's acute attention to the
thingness of our existence, there's never
been a need: The public has always been
the performer. In this survey, curator
Bartomeu Marí brings together such key
works from McBride's past two decades
as the massive, activated *Arena*, 1997,
and *Backsliding. Sideslipping. One Great
Leap and the "Forbidden"*, 1994—the
American-born, Europe-based artist's
analysis of Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye.
An accompanying catalogue tracks the
life of MACBA's public space over the
past year with photographs by Anne
Pöhlmann and essays by Mark Wigley
and Luis Fernández-Galiano.
—Jessica Morgan



Rita McBride, *Arena*, 1997, Twaron, wood. Installation view, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, 2009. Photo: Tony Coll.