

ELIASSON'S WATERFALLS BRING WINDFALL

The Associated Press reports that mayor Michael Bloomberg has said the public artwork by Olafur Eliasson that put waterfalls in the East River and New York Harbor brought in an estimated \$69 million for New York City, exceeding expectations of \$55 million. The work drew 1.4 million visitors from June 26 through October 13 to view the installation off Manhattan's East Side. "People didn't buy tickets or pass through a turnstile to experience the Waterfalls, but the exhibition brought people to areas of the city they might not otherwise ever have visited," the mayor said in a statement this week. "We've always understood that we have to encourage big, bold projects that set our city apart, and this is increasingly important while areas of our economy are struggling from the turmoil on Wall Street." The project was not without its problems. It generated complaints from some neighborhood groups and businesses that said the man-made cataracts was damaging waterfront plantings along Brooklyn Heights' popular promenade. In response the Public Art Fund in September cut the exhibit's weekly hours in half.

BERLIN POLICE PREVENT ART PROTEST

Bloomberg reports that Berlin police prevented the Swiss artist Enrico Centonze from planting 500 silver-gold flags in the grass in front of the Reichstag to represent the government's 500 billion-euro (\$670 billion) rescue package for banks. A spokeswoman for the Berlin police said the action was interrupted at 1:50 p.m. because it violated laws on public assembly. Centonze said his request for a permit had not so far been answered. He came up with his idea more than a week ago. 'This was an unregistered demonstration in the form of an art action,' said Nora Heggen, spokeswoman for the police. 'You need a special permit for this area.' The flags, made of metallic rescue blankets, were a visual interpretation of the rescue package,' Centonze explained, speaking to journalists as he hammered poles in the ground. 'Art should respond quickly to topical events,' Centonze said. The 1,500 euros for the project came from his pocket. Each flag represented 1 billion euros, he said.

DAMIEN HIRST TOPS ARTREVIEW'S 2008 POWER 100

Damien Hirst and his company Science, which manufactures most of his works, have made it to the top of ArtReview's Power 100 list for the second time (2005 was the first). In a year that began with the setting of new auction records for contemporary art and ended in global financial crisis, Hirst was the first artist to bring his work directly to auction (he sold at Sotheby's London in September), with a sale that brought in a staggering £111 million.

