

## BACKGROUNDER – DEVICE TO ROOT OUT EVIL

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Title of Work: Device to Root Out Evil  
Medium: Galvanized structural steel, anodized perforated aluminum, transparent red Venetian glass, concrete foundations  
Size: 20' x 15' x 8'  
Date: 1997

### ARTIST STATEMENT by Dennis Oppenheim

In sculpture, economy of gesture is often the mark of a successful work. In Device to Root out Evil, the simple inversion of a building (a church) is enough to radically alter the content of this object, and propel it into the pantheon reserved for high art. The steeple, usually piercing the sky in its lunge toward heaven, is now at ground level, pursuing with vigor, the demons of the deep.

The church becomes dynamic by cantilevering this meeting place into mid air, thus projecting all occupants into a spatial no man's land where equilibrium is exchanged for the dynamics of pursuit.

