

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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TURNER PRIZE–NOMINATED BRITISH ARTIST ROGER HIORNS
TO CREATE “DOMINANT” SCULPTURE FOR THE ART INSTITUTE
Massive Airplane Engines Installed on Museum’s Bluhm Family Terrace
Untitled (Alliance) on View May 1 through September 19, 2010

British artist **Roger Hiorns** (b. 1975), who was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2009, has been selected as the next contemporary artist to be featured on the **Bluhm Family Terrace** of the Art Institute of Chicago’s **Modern Wing**. His *Untitled (Alliance)* of 2010 is a commissioned site-specific sculpture consisting of two massive Boeing airplane engines, which have been placed on the terrace in the foreground of the Chicago skyline and Millennium Park. Hiorns’s first collaboration with a major American museum, *Untitled (Alliance)* will be on view from **May 1, 2010 through September 19, 2010**, and is free and open to the public.



The London-based artist is perhaps best known for his work *SEIZURE* (2008), in which he filled an abandoned apartment complex in South London with liquid copper sulfate. Over time, the copper sulfate solidified and coated every surface and texture of the space with brilliant blue crystals. *SEIZURE* garnered Hiorns the prestigious Turner Prize nomination and secured his reputation as an artist who creates arresting sculptural objects, installations, and performances that integrate unusual materials—such as detergent, disinfectant, semen, fire, and chemical compounds—to engineer physical and aesthetic transformations.

Untitled (Alliance), Hiorns's work for the Art Institute, combines his interest in machine forms with his preoccupation with the symbolic power of culturally "dominant" objects. His previous engine-based sculptures have involved the atomization of a passenger jet to fine dust; the insertion of brain matter into the engine of a Toyota people carrier; and the coating of automobile engines in translucent aqua-colored copper sulphate crystals. In the most general terms, engines are a symbolic and physical manifestation of power and, for Hiorns, a metaphor for organic and global networks—both inert and, potentially, threateningly alive.

This commissioned, site-specific project on the Bluhm Family Terrace of the Art Institute's Modern Wing comprises two Pratt & Whitney TF33 P9 engines, which were once mounted on Boeing EC-135 Looking Glass long-range surveillance planes. Here United States Air Force engine apparatuses—tools of security and preventative action—become subject to a further material alteration. The artist has incorporated into the engines Effexor, Citalopram, and Mannitol, three pharmaceuticals used to treat trauma and depression, that will be invisible and inaccessible to the viewer, making the connection between global security and individual well being. This gesture suggests, like the engines themselves, the creation and alleviation of anxiety on both a national and personal level.

Untitled (Alliance) furthers Hiorns's program of "re-evaluating selected objects." He has stated that "powerful organizations in the world leave their excess power lying in the street for the citizen or the artist to pick up and reuse, reassert or transgress from the original use." The Pratt & Whitney engines, now abandoned tools of surveillance missions, represent just this excess literal and figurative power, called into service at the Art Institute to remind visitors of the price of prosperity—as do the pharmaceuticals—and the materials of modern society.

About the Artist

Roger Hiorns was born in Birmingham, England, in 1975. Currently he lives and works in London. He studied art at Bournville College, Birmingham, and Goldsmiths College, London, receiving his B.A. in 1996. Recent shows include *Art Now* on the Sculpture Court at the Tate Britain and exhibitions at Marc Foxx, Los Angeles, and Corvi-Mora, London. In the past two years, his work has also been included in group shows organized by the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Santiago, Chile, and the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Royal Academy of Arts, both in London, among others. Hiorns's installation for the Art Institute marks the first time he has collaborated with a major encyclopedic art museum in the United States.

Roger Hiorns: Untitled (Alliance) is curated by James Rondeau, Frances and Thomas Dittmer Chair of Contemporary Art, the Art Institute of Chicago. Major funding is generously provided by The Boeing Company. The Bluhm Family Endowment Fund supports exhibitions of modern and contemporary sculpture, which may consist of existing works drawn from the Art Institute's permanent collection or borrowed from other collections private and public, or new works commissioned specifically for this site.

IMAGE: Roger Hiorns installing *Untitled (Alliance)* on the Bluhm Family Terrace of the Modern Wing

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10:00 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

TARGET FREE THURSDAY EVENINGS AFTER 5:00 pm

SUMMER HOURS (from Memorial Day to Labor Day)

10:30 am–5:00 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

10:30 am–9:00 pm Thursday, Friday

10:00 am–5:00 pm Saturday, Sunday

TARGET FREE SUMMER EVENINGS THURSDAY AFTER 5:00 pm

FREE FEBRUARY 1 TO 28

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION

Adults \$18.00 Includes all special exhibitions and coat check

Children 14 and over, students, and seniors \$12.00 Includes all special exhibitions and coat check

Chicago residents receive a \$2.00 discount with proof of residency

Children under 14 always free

Members always free

Free Evenings are free to all. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park. Visitors can enter the museum via the Michigan Avenue entrance or the Millennium Park entrance on Monroe Street.