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CONTEMPORARY ARTIST PAE WHITE TRANSFORMS
ART INSTITUTE'S MODERN WING TERRACE INTO WORK OF ART
***Restless Rainbow* Installed on Museum's Bluhm Family Terrace**
On View Through September 2011

American artist **Pae White** (b. 1963) has created a work for the **Bluhm Family Terrace** of the Art Institute of Chicago's **Modern Wing**. White's ***Restless Rainbow*** (2011) is a commissioned, site-specific work that, for the first time, uses this dramatic outdoor space not as a platform for sculptural objects but as the work itself. ***Restless Rainbow***, White's first presentation at the Art Institute, is on view **through September 2011** and is free and open to the public.



White's diverse work engages in art, architecture, and design to heighten the experience of site and context. Having grown up in the late 1960s and 1970s in the "modernist mecca" of southern California, where she still works and lives, she has a visual vocabulary that draws from a broad range of influences that run from consumer culture to "high" art—Eames furniture, Vera Neumann scarves, and Milton Glaser graphics among them.

Restless Rainbow (2011) takes the question of site as its primary concern. For this work, White draws on her interest in and knowledge of graphic design, textiles, and animation to wrap the terrace in a vibrantly colored and energetic abstracted pattern, as if a rainbow had fallen from the sky. From the surface of the floor to the tops of the glass walls, the Bluhm Family Terrace

becomes a completely activated site in and of itself. *Restless Rainbow* inverts the traditional act of “looking out” from the terrace—at the Chicago skyline, Millennium Park, and the lakefront—and instead invites visitors to enjoy it as its own immersive space, fully alive through the use of color, line, and texture. White’s bright palette envelops viewers on the terrace and attracts visitors from the street, throwing the brilliant space of the terrace into high relief against the surrounding limestone and glass museum, the steely cityscape, and the deep blue of the sky and lake.

White was deeply inspired by the space of the terrace itself and its openness to the sky above, leading her to imagine the fate of a “restless rainbow”: what if a rainbow were composed of a different color spectrum? what would a rainbow look and feel like if it fell from the sky? how could a rainbow be contained within a finite space instead of the limitless expanse of the sky? The Bluhm Family Terrace becomes just such a space, brought to life as a riot of color and play.

About the Artist

Pae White was born in Pasadena, California, in 1963. She graduated in 1985 from Scripps College, Claremont, and in 1991 received her MFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. White has exhibited internationally at institutions such as the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, Ohio; the Hammer Museum of the University of California, Los Angeles; and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC. She was also a featured artist in the Sculpture Projekte Münster (2007) and participated in the 53rd International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennale (2009) and the Whitney Biennial (2010).

Pae White: Restless Rainbow is curated by James Rondeau, Frances and Thomas Dittmer Chair of the Department of Contemporary Art at the Art Institute of Chicago. This exhibition is organized by the Art Institute with major funding from the Bluhm Family Endowment Fund. The 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. Generous support is provided by the Exhibitions Trust: Goldman Sachs, Kenneth and Anne Griffin, Thomas and Margot Pritzker, the Earl and Brenda Shapiro Foundation, Donna and Howard Stone, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sullivan, and an anonymous donor.

Image Credit: Rendering of Pae White’s *Restless Rainbow* installation for the Bluhm Family Terrace of the Modern Wing.

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