

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation proudly presents Alice Aycock's vibrant and inspirational sculpture, *Liftoff*. The artist created and precisely engineered this sculpture to embody the forces of nature.

Aycock's sculpture evokes currents of air, especially ones that could lift us beyond the earth — in our imaginations as well as physically. Painted a dazzling white, *Liftoff* catches the light that, like air, is constantly moving and changing. The sculpture honors the late Johnny Danos, a community leader in Greater Des Moines.

Liftoff

A NEW PUBLIC ART PROJECT
BY ALICE AYCOCK

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Artist Alice Aycock / Photo Kristine Larsen



ABOVE AND COVER

Alice Aycock (American, born 1946)

Liftoff 2021

Powder coated aluminum and steel / H. 21', 3" x Dia 21', 9" (H. 6m, 43cm x Dia 6m, 63cm)

Commissioned in 2020 by Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation in honor of Johnny Danos;
Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, 2021.1

Renderings courtesy of the artist

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work in both the public and private spheres has been a meditation on the ramifications of science and technology from the simplest tool to the invention of flight and the computer. Many of these works have incorporated references to energy sources in the form of spirals, whirlpools, spinning tops, whirly-gigs and so on. I try to visualize the movement of wind energy as it flows up and down creating random whirlpools and forming dynamic three-dimensional massing of forms. The sculptural assemblage references the expressive quality of wind and flow dynamics. ALICE AYCOCK

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Alice Aycock is a pioneering American artist who has created artwork since the early 1970s.

Over the course of Aycock's decades-long career, many of her works of art have been inspired by science. The physics of fluid dynamics has been of particular interest to the artist. The prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in Contemporary Sculpture by the International Sculpture Center in 2018 acknowledged Aycock as a master sculptor. She also received the Academy of the Arts Achievement Award in Visual Arts in 2019.

Since 1983, she has had four international retrospective exhibitions of her drawings and sculptures. Museums around the world have

collected her art including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, the Brooklyn Museum, the Metropolitan Museum in New York, The National Gallery of Art, the Sprengel Museum in Hanover, Germany and the Louis Vuitton Foundation in Paris, France, to name a few.

Aycock is well known for public art installations, including at 14 different universities and major US airports. In 2014, a series of seven sculptures entitled *Paper Chase* was installed on Park Avenue in New York City.

Scan this code with your smart phone for more information about Alice Aycock and *Liftoff*.

