

Liftoff

A NEW PUBLIC ART PROJECT
BY ALICE AYCOCK

Liftoff, commissioned by Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation, is prominently located on the median formed by the divided entrance and exit of the Des Moines International Airport complex.

An apt metaphor for capturing the energy of the city, the work speaks to the exhilaration and sense of excitement that travelers may feel during takeoff and landing.

To experience the moment the plane leaves the ground can be a truly magical sensation of levitation.

This landmark sculpture honors the late Johnny Danos, a community leader in Greater Des Moines.



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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" x D. [H. 6m, 43cm x W. 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.