

JASON PETERS

Anti.Gravity.Material.Light

January 28-April 11, 2010

FAMILY GUIDE

This guide was created for adults and children to use together as they explore the exhibition, *Anti.Gravity.Material.Light*. You will want to look closely at these sculptures, but please remember to be careful and not touch the artwork or gallery walls.



WHO IS JASON PETERS?

Jason Peters is an artist who lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He was born in the United States and raised in Munich, Germany. In 1995, he returned to the United States to attend college, studying sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland. He exhibits his artwork across the country, including New York, St. Louis, Santa Fe, and Washington, D.C.

SITE SENSATIONAL

For three weeks in January 2010, Jason Peters and a team of students and Museum staff created the 5 **installations** you see in this exhibition. Installations are three-dimensional artworks created directly on site that change the way a space looks. While these pieces are temporary and will eventually be taken apart, it was Peters' wish that each sculpture captures a moment in time and makes a lasting impression on you.

"When you can come to art and create something personal with it, you might actually remember that experience longer."

--Jason Peters

Imagine you are an artist working in a large, empty room. What would you create to fill up the space?

TRASH OR TREASURE?

Peters works with **ready-made** objects to transform everyday items into extraordinary large-scale, sculptural installations. A ready-made is a mass-produced, commercial material such as buckets or chairs. Unlike found objects, ready-mades are not special or unique. In fact, you probably have most everything used in this exhibition in your home.



As you walk through the exhibit, search for the following **ready-mades**, and check off the ones you find.

- ☐ Chairs
- ☐ Light bulbs
- ☐ Mirrors
- ☐ Buckets
- ☐ Wire
- ☐ Tape

TAKE A SEAT

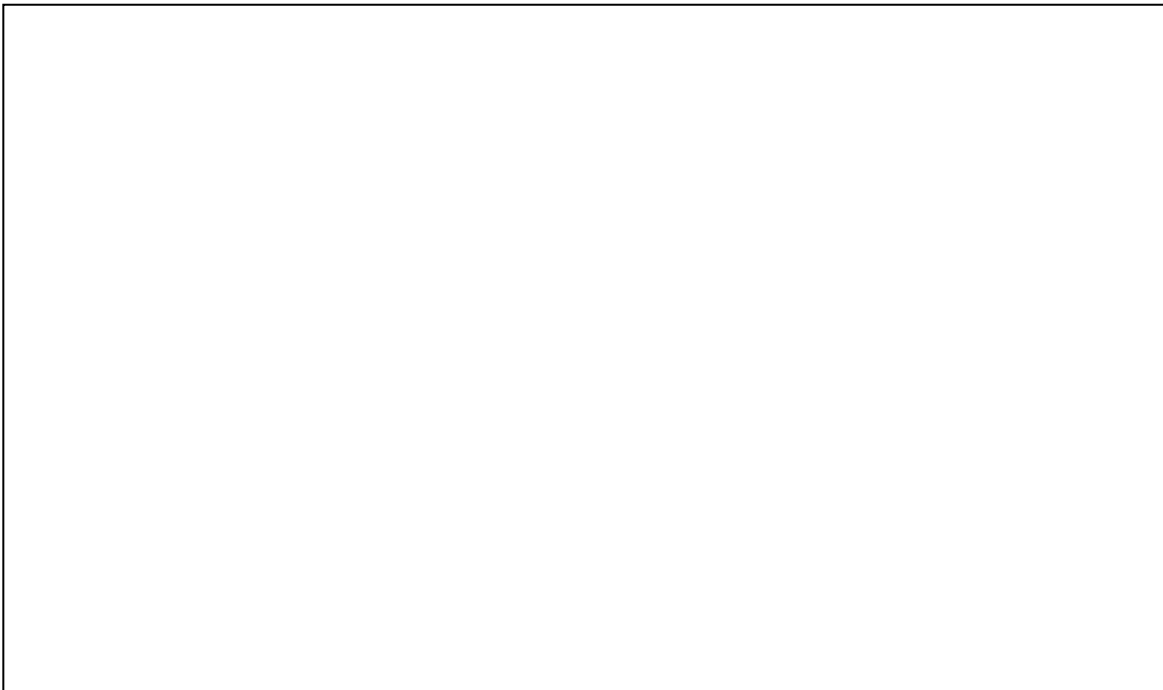
Peters collects large quantities of familiar objects, such as chairs, and attaches them together to construct a unique work of art. The chairs are transformed from their original purpose—to provide seating—into a heap of stacked, hinged forms. Then, he adds three cubes made from fluorescent light tubes. The cubes create a feeling of order in a jumble of chaotic forms.



Frailty of Structural Chaos

Think about all the different types of chairs you sit in each day at school or at home. Are the chairs hard or soft? What colors or fabrics cover their surface? What materials are they made from? How are those chairs different from the ones you see here?

Search the gallery for drawings of the chair sculpture. Next, use the space below to draw plans for making your own sculpture. At home, create a smaller version using wire and a collection of household materials.



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

In many of his geometric works, Peters investigates the concepts of order and infinity. Here, he has built a hanging sculpture of fluorescent light tubes reflected in a mirror that rests on the floor. Notice how the tubes are connected at each end and create a repeating pattern of triangles.



Visceral Paradigm

How many triangles can you find? What happens when you look into the mirror? How many more triangles can you count?

If we were to fill in the negative, or open, spaces between the light bulbs, we could create a solid geometric form called a *polyhedron*. (The name for this triangular form is tetrahedron, but I bet you already knew that!). *What material would you choose to fill in the space between the tubes?*



Look to see if you can find other geometric shapes and forms in the exhibit.

- ☐ Circles
- ☐ Spheres
- ☐ Squares
- ☐ Cubes
- ☐ Triangles
- ☐ Rectangles

ORGANIC BUCKETS?

Sculptures are three-dimensional works of art that can be geometric or **organic**. Unlike geometric artwork, organic art is made of uneven or irregular shapes that imitate nature. Known best for his bucket sculptures, Peters changes this simple, everyday item into something new and beautiful. He suspends these snake-like tubes from the ceiling with aircraft cable, allowing slight movement to bring the piece to life. This installation, made using 350 buckets, has bright red, curving lines. Peters has inserted an occasional yellow bucket to create a resting point for the eye.



Seduction of a Muse



Promising Casualty

Where else in the Museum can you find a bucket sculpture? (Hint: Visit the hallway outside the Museum Store and look up.) Walk upstairs to the mezzanine to get a closer look. How is this sculpture like the one you saw in the exhibit? How is it different?

ILLUSION

Walk carefully through the dark entrance into the next room. Allow your eyes to adjust to the dimly-lit work, and you will find yourself surrounded by twisting white tubes that seem to go on forever. With more than 800 buckets, this magical work is an experiment in the illusion of depth and space.



I am All Ways in One

What trick does the artist use to make the sculpture appear larger than it really is? At home, you can experiment with a few mirrors to create repeating images of yourself.

In the space below, circle the words that best describe the sculptures you have seen in this exhibit. Use the blank circles to make up your own words!

SOFT

WAVY

SHINY

GLOWING

COOL

BRIGHT

INTENSE

DIAGONAL

WARM

SMOOTH

GRACEFUL

CURVY

COLLECTION CONNECTION

Search the Museum for other sculptures. Some pieces you can walk around, while others hang on the wall or ceiling. Pieces can be realistic or **abstract**. Usually, abstract art does not represent anything recognizable. You may be able to make out a figure or object, but the form has been changed so much that it no longer appears realistic. In the place of real-looking objects or figures, artists focus on lines, forms, or textures and may try to represent an idea or feeling.

Artists also make many choices as to the size and scale of their sculptures. The material a sculptor chooses determines the forms, shapes, textures, and colors of their work. Sculptures also can have different types of textures or surfaces—rough, smooth, shiny, dull. Since we are not able to touch the artworks in a museum, how can we tell how the surface of a sculpture feels?



See how many different types of materials you can find sculptures made from:

- ☐ Metal
- ☐ Wood
- ☐ Glass
- ☐ Plastic
- ☐ Wire
- ☐ Stone
- ☐ Animal horns, antlers, and bones

At home, talk with family members about which piece was your favorite. What was something new and different that you discovered during your visit? Share your experience with your friends!

NEW FRONTIERS: Series for Contemporary Art

NEW FRONTIERS: Series for Contemporary Art underscores the Museum's commitment to the art-of-our-time and to recognizing contemporary art as a critical and dynamic part of our daily lives. The Series will provide a framework for the exchange of ideas between the Museum, artists, and the community, while connecting to the international dialogue on contemporary art and new perspectives in the field.

2009-2010

SEASON SPONSORS

PRESENTING SEASON SPONSOR

Inasmuch Foundation

SEASON SPONSORS

Allied Arts Foundation | Chesapeake Energy Corporation

Devon Energy Corporation | OGE Corporation

Oklahoma Arts Council

Bank of America | Crawley Petroleum

Great Plains Coca-Cola Bottling Company

Kirkpatrick Foundation | MidFirst Bank

SandRidge Energy, Inc. | Saxum Public Relations

Cox Oklahoma | GlobalHealth | The Oklahoman

Thatcher Hoffman Smith Film Endowment

EDUCATION SPONSORS

Sarkeys Foundation and Sonic, America's Drive-In

Arts Education Endowments

Oklahoma Community Service Commission



DONALD W. REYNOLDS VISUAL ARTS CENTER
415 Couch Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73102
(405) 236-3100 | Fax: (405) 236-3122 | okcmoa.com