

Aloft

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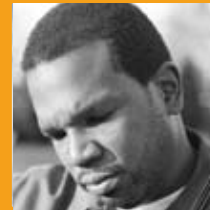
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Museum News

Seattle Artist Paul Rucker Adds Audio Experience to Museum's New Bridge

The Museum of Flight's visually-striking pedestrian bridge spanning East Marginal Way will also provide visitors with an audio experience of flight through an original "sound artwork" by Seattle artist Paul Rucker. Rucker was awarded the commission after an open competition among local artists earlier this year. "We looked at some very compelling proposals for this project," said Ed Renouard of the Museum's Bridge Committee, "It was a tough choice. Mr. Rucker's vision, experience and affinity with flight made him a perfect fit."



As a composer, musician and installation artist Rucker has been recognized as "Best Emerging Artist of 2004" from Earshot, "Jazz Artist of the Year 2005" from the Seattle Music Awards and "Outside Jazz Ensemble of the Year" in 2008 from Earshot Jazz. He was recently awarded a Spotlight Arts Award by Seattle Magazine which is featured in the September issue. Rucker is a recent Washington State Arts Commission Fellowship recipient in music from Artist Trust. He has received numerous grants for visual art and music from agencies including Seattle Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, 4Culture, South Carolina Arts Commission and the Washington State Arts Commission. Rucker has also been awarded residencies all over the world including the prestigious Rockefeller Fellowship to the Study Center in Bellagio, Italy.

Rucker's sound art for the Museum's bridge will include new musical compositions interwoven with audio sampling from aerospace history and nature. The looped, 60-minute installation will have nine programs of various lengths and themes. The audio experience will utilize 32 channels of sounds weaving throughout the length of the 340 ft. bridge.

"My first experience with flight was not as a passenger on a commercial plane but as a cadet for the Civil Air Patrol," said Rucker. "The adventure in the Cessna 172 was unforgettable. The fear, excitement, and joy of that day will be with me forever. I would like for this installation to be an audio diary of similar experiences, emotions, and appreciations related to aviation."

The bridge's dynamic shape is inspired from the metaphor of the contrail, a stream of crystallized vapor created in a plane's wake. The metaphor is carried out in the bridge's unusual tube truss design, made of crossing circular steel pipe sections surrounding an inner glass enclosure. The architectural design firm for the bridge, SRG Partnership, Inc., was awarded a Citation Award during the 2008 Civic Design Awards Ceremony from AIA Washington, a council of the American Institute of Architects.



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