

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RICHARD E. PEELER ART CENTER
UPCOMING EXHIBITION

PANGAEA'S BLANKET: DIANA AL-HADID
OCTOBER 4 – NOVEMBER 5, 2006



Immodest Mountain, 2006, mixed media installation. Courtesy of the artist.

Greencastle, IN, September 2006 — **Pangaea's Blanket: Diana Al Hadid**, a room-sized, mixed media installation created by the New York-based artist, will be on view at the Richard E. Peeler Art Center at DePauw University from October 4 through November 5, 2006.

Born in Syria and currently based in Brooklyn, New York, Diana Al-Hadid uses fiberglass planes, or “membranes,” to create large-scale installations that outline and organize space and create the appearance of fragile landscapes. These large-scale installations function as imaginary places that refer to architecture, set design, and the baroque, and depict a variety of forms and geological events that suggest the expansion and formation of geological time. While they are suggestive of slowly evolving landmasses, they also allude to highly ornate and fragile interior spaces and gratuitously opulent environments, which the viewer can often traverse.

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In *Pangaea's Blanket*, a room-sized installation commissioned for DePauw University's Richard E. Peeler Art Center, Al Hadid will create a hovering blanket of undulating, white "membranes" in the shape of Pangaea, the supercontinent that is said to have existed during the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras, before the process of plate tectonics separated each of the component continents into their current configuration.

Al-Hadid's installations have been described as alternate universes spurred by the substances and histories of this world, but misinterpreting those points of reference and acting as examples from the Many-Worlds Interpretation of quantum mechanics, which purports that, in addition to the world we are aware of directly, there are many other similar worlds which exist in parallel at the same space and time. As the artist states: "My installations are propositions for an imaginary world. They are places that have a sense of believability without recognition and rely on their own internal logic. If I can't have an inherent contradiction, I'll take an apparent one."

Diana Al Hadid received her MFA in Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2005. Recently she participated in the Bronx Museum's Artists-in-the-Marketplace program, and was the artist-in-residence at the Sculpture Space Residency in Utica, New York. Al-Hadid's work has been included in exhibitions at the Keith Talent Gallery (London); the Kim Foster Gallery (New York); Skylab (Cleveland); the Bronx Museum (New York); Vox Populi (Philadelphia); and the Arlington Arts Center (Washington, D.C.). Her work has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The Cleveland Free Times* and *The Washington Post*. Al-Hadid currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

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EVENTS

Opening reception with talk by the artist

Wednesday, October 4, 2006

4:00 – 5:30 pm

Richard E. Peeler Art Center

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The galleries at the Richard E. Peeler Art Center are open Tuesday-Friday 10 am – 4 pm; Saturday 11 am - 5 pm; and Sunday 1 – 5 pm. Please visit our website at <http://www.depauw.edu/galleries> for more information about special events associated with this exhibition.

For more information please contact:

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