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Installation Starts This Week on Dramatic Gateway into Iowa  
*Sculptor Albert Paley's Odyssey to create a memorable destination for millions*

(Council Bluffs, IA) – August 4 -- Installation of a monumental gateway into Iowa gets underway this week on Iowa Interstate 80 at S. 24<sup>th</sup> St. in Council Bluffs, Iowa, near the Missouri River border with neighboring Omaha, Nebraska. Sculptor Albert Paley is internationally known for his large scale, site-specific works. He designed the interstate gateway, called Odyssey, for an audience of millions.

Odyssey consists of four mixed-metal sculptures on the four corners of the S. 24<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge over Interstate 80. Constructed of stainless steel, weathering steel and bronze plate, the sculptures speak to the region's long history of transformation. Undulating ribbons, jagged spears and abstract shapes reach, like skyscrapers of the plains, against a backdrop of changing skies and an expansive agricultural landscape.

The magnitude of this dramatic gateway, with massive sculptures to tower 100 feet over the interstate, is the largest of Paley's career. He says Iowa's western border is the perfect place. Asked, why create a destination in Council Bluffs, Iowa for millions of drivers passing through this spot in middle America -- "If it weren't for the Statue of Liberty, I'm not sure many people would remember that island," explained Paley. "Drivers will see this from miles away and their view will change as they get closer and closer. As they pass through the gateway, they'll experience something and they'll remember."

Paley's Odyssey was commissioned by Iowa West Public Art, an initiative of the Iowa West Foundation. Installation starts Thursday, August 5, 2010. Fabricated near the artist's Rochester, New York studio, Paley moved fabrication to an extra large facility to accommodate cranes to assemble the sculptures up to 60 feet in height and weighing as much as 70,000 pounds.

Among Paley's internationally recognized gateways and entrances are the Animal Always Plaza at the St. Louis Zoological Park, the Portal Gates of the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery, and the entrance gates of the Good Shepard Chapel of the National Cathedral. His sculptures are included in collections of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, London's Victoria and Albert Museum, the Smithsonian's Museum of American Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Odyssey is the latest addition to a rapidly growing public art collection in Council Bluffs, Iowa, featuring some of the most important names in public art including: Jonathan Borofsky, Brower Hatcher, Jun Kaneko, William King, and Deborah Masuoka. The Paley installation is integrated with an award-winning reconstruction of the Iowa Interstate 80 Bridge at S.24<sup>th</sup> St. because of a unique partnership between the Iowa West Foundation and the Iowa Department of Transportation.

The \$3 million in funding for the art related portion of the installation comes from the Iowa West Foundation which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Iowa West Foundation CEO and President, Todd Graham, says “the gateway belongs to everyone.”

Graham added, “These magnificent sculptures towering over the interstate, just east of Omaha, will be experienced by millions of people every year. It’s a powerful investment in public art that will benefit a substantial audience for many years to come. “

Installation managers expect the most dramatic moments will be Tuesday, August 9 and Wednesday, August 10. That’s when large cranes, positioned under the bridge, will lift the highest sections of the first sculptures into place.

To coincide with the installation, Omaha’s Joslyn Art Museum opens a featured exhibition of Paley’s work on Saturday, August 7. The exhibit includes working drawings, site plans, photographs, and videos that show the artist’s process from concept to completion.

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Iowa West Public Art (IWPA) is an initiative of the Iowa West Foundation. IWPA is guided by a community-driven Public Art Master Plan, which was completed in 2005. The plan designates over fifty potential public art sites in the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa. IWPA’s vision for the year 2015 is that Council Bluffs will be a community with a national and international reputation for high quality art that attracts visitors from all over the world and fuels economic development. Find out more at <http://www.iowawestpublicart.org/>.

The Iowa West Foundation is an independent 501(c) (3) organization that makes grants in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska. The Iowa West Foundation is one of the largest community- based private foundations in the Midwest. Over \$250 million in Foundation grants have improved lives and strengthened communities. Grants are funded through its investment income and from the Iowa West Racing Association, which receives fees from casino operators- Ameristar and Harrah’s.