



News from

The New Indianapolis Airport

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ART INSTALLATION PAYS HOMAGE TO THE WRIGHT BROTHERS

INDIANAPOLIS – Internationally noted sculptor John Van Alstine today supervised installation at the New Indianapolis Airport terminal of “Cardinalis,” a 35-foot tall piece featuring an actual wing from an F-14 Tomcat aircraft. The artwork, commissioned by the Indianapolis Airport Authority, pays homage to Hoosier aviation pioneers Orville and Wilbur Wright and refers to the state bird of Indiana.

The installation is the latest in a series of commissioned works designed as part of the New Indianapolis Airport art program. Van Alstine, who grew up and still lives in the southern Adirondack Mountains, says the work, in which the red-painted wing is connected to the earth by a sweeping arch, symbolizes the “bridging” between earth and sky that is the function of airports. The sculpture is located in an outdoor garden site at the new terminal.

Van Alstine has received many large-scale outdoor sculptural commissions, including a piece for the 2008 Olympic Park in Beijing, China and a bronze-and-granite sculpture at Indiana State University in Terre Haute. His work is characterized by heavy, massive forms engineered to seem delicately balanced on each other.

He says “Cardinalis,” with its uplifting, sweeping and graceful energy, “is itself a metaphor for the act of flying.”

The airport sculpture is raised five feet off the ground on an earth berm. The granite trim was hand-fabricated by the artist. Art Research Enterprises of Lancaster, PA, using an actual F-14 wing provided by the U.S. Navy, fabricated the rest of the metalwork. The siting of the sculpture was done in collaboration with Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf, the airport’s landscape designer.

Through commissioned, site-specific and/or architecturally integrated works of art, the Indianapolis International Airport will provide its visitors from the global community access to a wide variety of artists and art forms from Indianapolis, Indiana, the United States and the world. The Airport Arts and Culture Program seeks to raise the level of interest and enjoyment of art and artists on the part of guests and residents alike.

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