

Peter Hiers



Collision Course





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## Suspended Reality

Found tire sidewalls, laminated wood, motorcycle chains  
39" in diameter x 5 1/2" deep, plus chain length



# Gallery Founder's Statement

Catherine Lee  
Crossing Art Gallery  
New York, NY



Continuing in our tradition of hosting periodic exhibitions examining the human relationship to the planet, Crossing Art is pleased to host this show "Collision Course" by Bay Area sculptor Peter Hiers on timely themes regarding the human present and future. As if each piece were a paragraph in a chapter on the subject questioning the human future, Hiers takes us into a media that is rich with both texture and metaphor. The destructive waste of daily life is deconstructed and transformed into sculptures with haunting questions and unusual beauty.

Since 2000 he has collected tire fragments amidst the rush of traffic along highways all over the western U.S. Each work is uniquely made into a range of forms from a wide variety of techniques involving weaving, spiraling, stacking, sewing, stapling, tying and layering. Among the very few artists using this unique medium of tire rubber, only Hiers brings the violently ripped and torn textures to the fore, along with their symbolic implications. Some of the wall-mounted pieces have moving elements to invite interaction. Elevating this commonly ignored material for closer examination, he encourages the viewer to touch and explore the unusual textures of this mysterious, light-absorbing surface.

Hiers has chosen this exhibition to unveil his newest creative direction, unique "Landscape Prints." In these unusual works, each piece is made through interaction between the artist and the motion of vehicles that pass over the canvas, acquiring carbon imprints of constant human activity on one small part of the earth's surface, over just a few hours of time. Often done surreptitiously during the night like street art, this work is parallel but moves at opposite directions to that of graffiti street artists. Rather than add markings to an urban landscape, or like Christo who adds fabric to a landscape, the Landscape Prints instead steal or capture markings on canvas that would have been added to a street or pavement, and remove them to be seen in another context.

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*Hiers takes us into a media that is rich with both texture and metaphor.*

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Crossing Art Gallery is pleased to host Hiers' first solo exhibition here in New York. His work has been selected for other recent shows in New York by Whitney Museum Curator Elizabeth Sussman, by New York's National Academy Museum Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art Marshall N. Price, and was awarded "critic's choice" commendation for a Detroit exhibition by N.Y. Art Critic Lilly Wei. His works have been shown twice at the National Museum of China and in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Beijing International Art Biennales, in Canada, and across the U.S.

California Curator Robert Reese has observed in Hiers' work that "salvaging such defiant beauty from scraps of rubber tires provides a compelling metaphor of survival in the modern world." Another California art reviewer said Hiers' work "has great bodily presence and intrigues the viewer with its contradiction between beauty and ugliness." From the sides of busy highways and using abandoned shredded fragments of broken tires, Hiers shares insights, questions, and hints at a future that weaves both fragmentation with order, and challenge with hope.







## Social Fabric

Found tire rubber fragments  
39" x 32" x 10 1/2" • Wall-mounted

• On loan from the collection of the  
Museum of Contemporary Art Beijing •





Social Fabric  
Detail





Bound  
Found tire fragments, plated steel • 19 1/2" x 18" x 13"





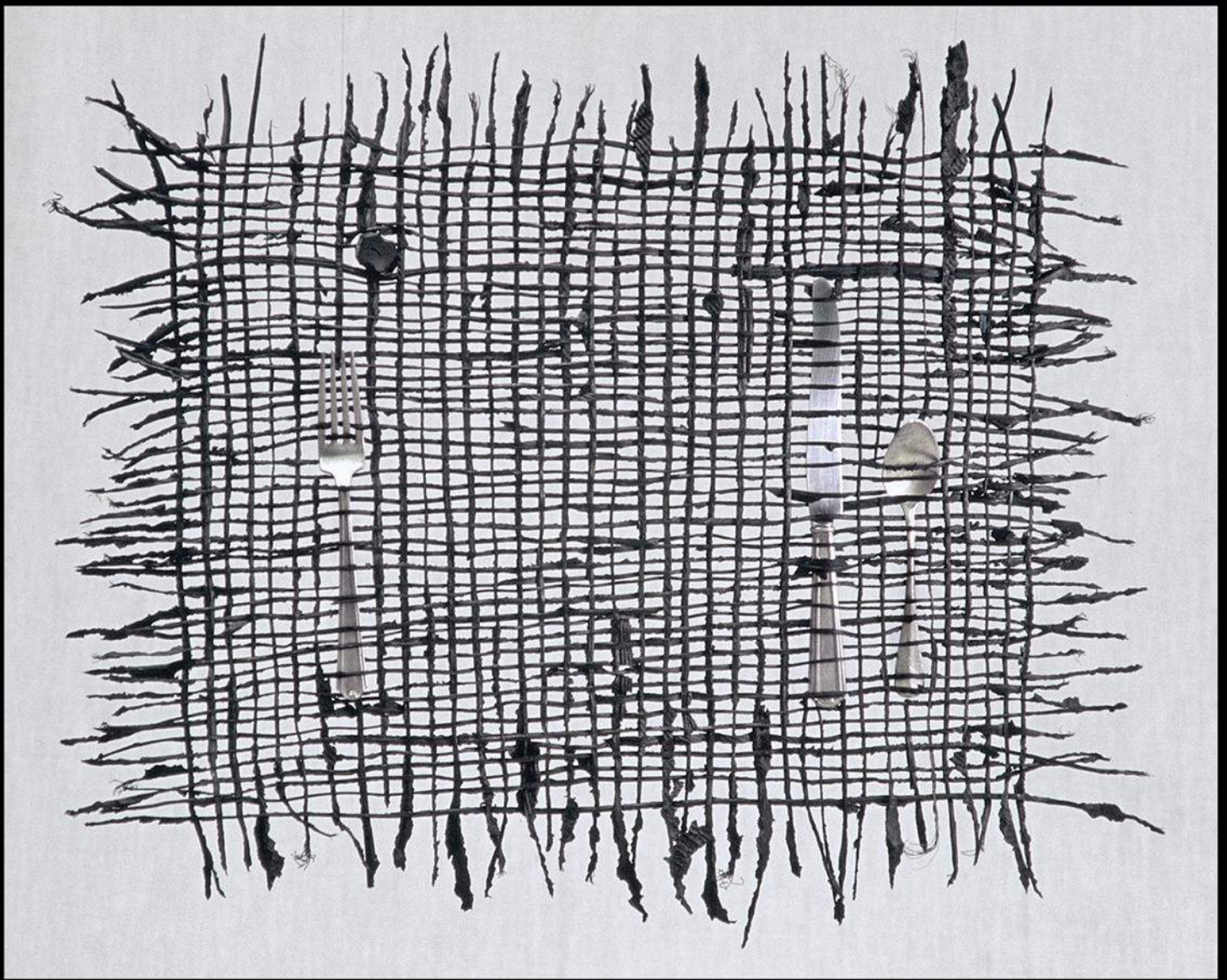




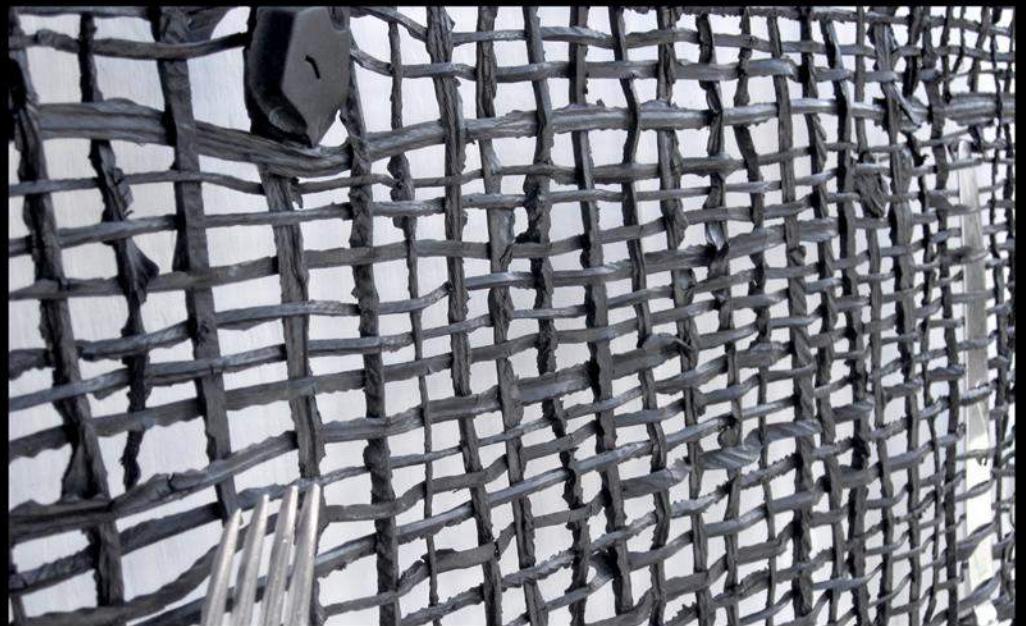
Found tire rubber fragments • 36" x 45" x 8" • Wall-mounted Mythology Unraveling







**Food Chain** Found highway tire steel belt fragments, silverware • 19" x 26" x 2"







## Declaration of Dependence

Found tire rubber • 42" tall x 15" wide x 11" • Wall-mounted









Found tire rubber fragments • 95" x 15" deep x 7" wide • Wall-mounted **Shifting Orbit**





## Cash Flow

Found tire steel belt fragments, paper, credit cards • 6" x 10" x 4"





**Fashion Cycle**  
Wheel Rim, found tire fragment, clothing, steel  
35" x 35" x 15" • Wall-mounted

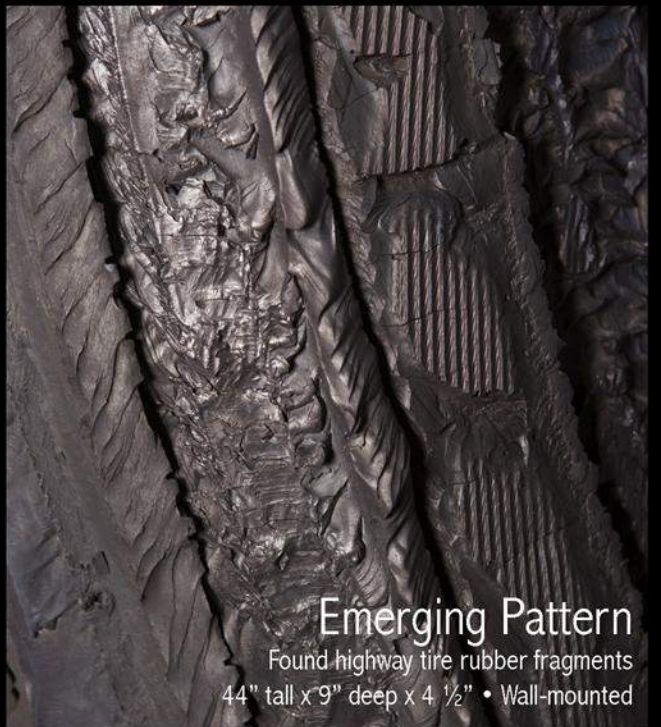




Open Question Found tire rubber fragments • 49" tall x 47" wide x 5" • Wall-mounted







## Emerging Pattern

Found highway tire rubber fragments  
44" tall x 9" deep x 4 1/2" • Wall-mounted





## Trajectory

Found tire rubber fragments  
14" tall x 38" wide x 3" • Wall-mounted



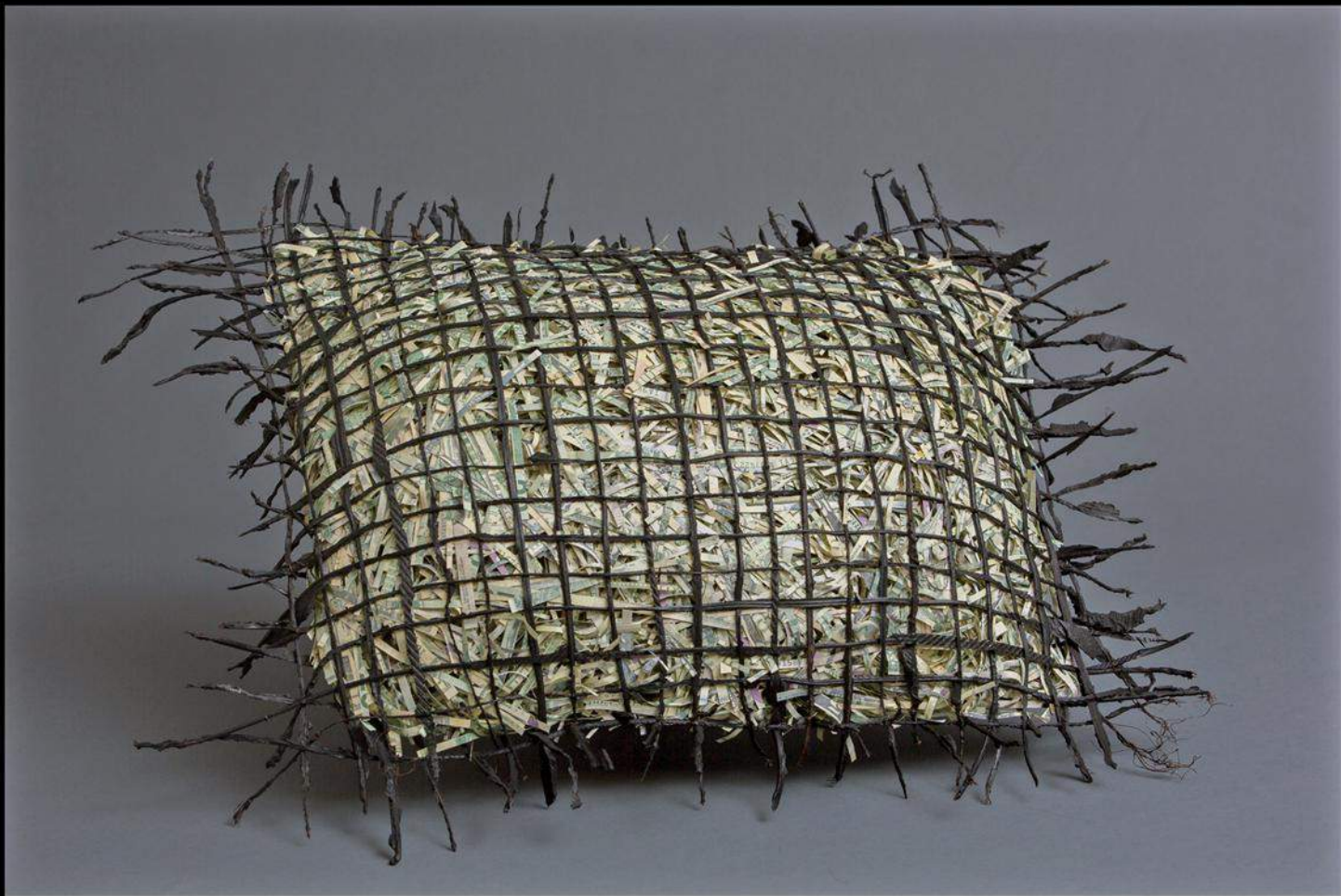




Into the Future  
Carbon and earth pigments on canvas • 39" x 47"





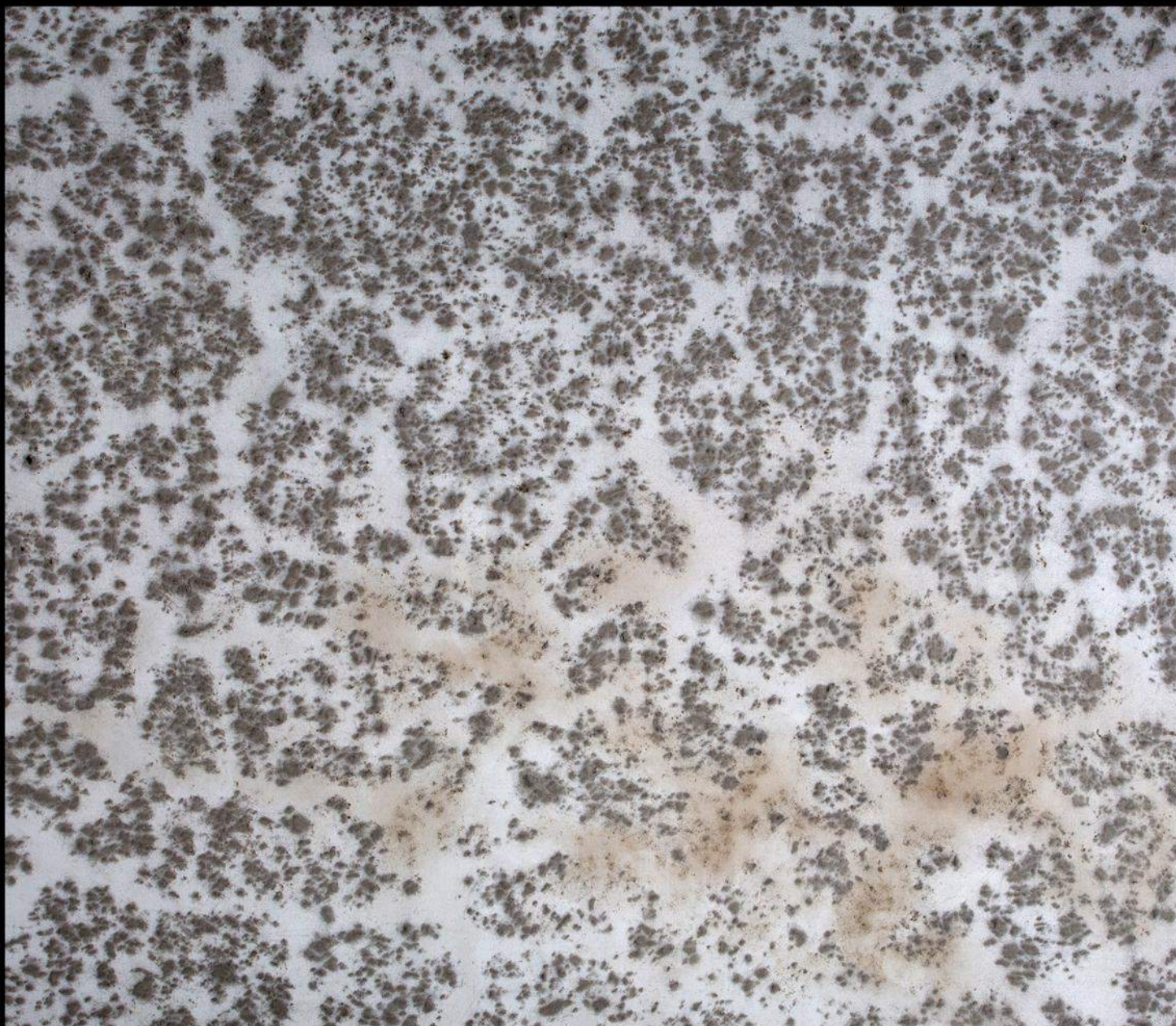


# Counting Sheep

Found highway tire steel belt fragments, paper • 20" x 26" x 6"







## Between the Cracks

Carbon and earth pigments on canvas • 36" x 54"







## Beneath the Surface

Carbon and earth pigments on canvas • 36" x 32"

Detail







## Rift

Found tire rubber fragments  
62" x 7" x 5" • Wall-mounted



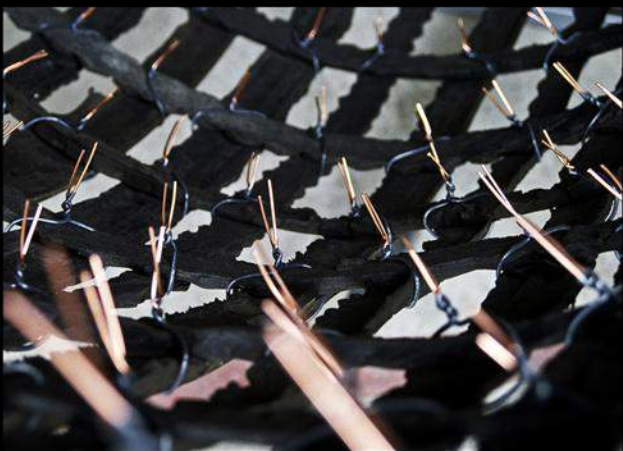




## Drip

Tire rubber, water bottles, wire  
91" x 30" x 30"





American Dreaming  
Found tire rubber, electrical wire, wood, steel  
5' tall x 10 ½' x 40"





**Adaptation** Found highway tire rubber steel belt fragments, wood, wire • 27" tall x 18" x 19"







Found tire fragment, trash, wheel rim, steel • 39" x 39" x 13" • Wall-mounted **Wheel of Fortune**





Dietary Restriction (top) Life sized • Found tire tread, belt hardware

Insatiable Appetite (below) Life sized • Found tire tread, belt hardware





Life Vest  
Found tire rubber  
Life sized











## Detour Ahead

Found tire rubber fragments • 24" diameter x 8" • Wall-mounted







Aqueduct Found tire fragments, plated steel • 40" x 40" x 56"





## Gordian or Not?

Found tire rubber fragments • 14" tall x 84" x 18"







Ghost Impression Carbon and earth pigments on canvas • 45" x 30"





## Circular Logic

Found tire sidewalls • 37" x 39" x 5 1/2" • Wall-mounted







Balancing Not Included  
Found tire rubber, wheel rim • 28" x 24" x 9"



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[www.peterhiers.com](http://www.peterhiers.com)

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What caught my attention in the work of Peter Hiers is his use of fragments of tire treads he gathers from highways. From these he conjures works with a certain lyrical quality. The Los Angeles freeway paintings of the late James Doolin were like that. For both, the drastic environmental impact of our runaway consumer culture has been the dominant concern. And as with Doolin, Hiers' work does not immediately drive us away or trade in making us feel guilty. Rather, it draws us in and quietly asks us to think. Where is this road taking us?

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