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**MEDIA CONTACT**

**Kate Lindquist, Friends of the High Line**

[kate.lindquist@thehighline.org](mailto:kate.lindquist@thehighline.org)

**(212) 206-9922 / (646) 259-2837**

HYPERLINK “<http://www.thehighline.org/about/public-art>” <http://www.thehighline.org/about/public-art>

**\*\*\*HIGH LINE ART\*\*\***

**FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE PRESENTS  
DEMETRIUS OLIVER’S *JUPITER***

A rendering of Demetrius Oliver’s *Jupiter*.

**A MAJOR PUBLIC ART COMMISSION COMBINING  
ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHY, MUSICAL PERFORMANCES, AND  
STARGAZING**

**New York, NY (August 6, 2010)** – Friends of the High Line will debut Demetrius Oliver’s new public art installation, *Jupiter*, on a 25-by-75-foot billboard adjacent to the High Line at West 18<sup>th</sup> Street on Tuesday, September 7, 2010. Live musical performances and stargazing from the High Line will accompany the piece – the first large-scale public art commission in New York City for the Manhattan-based artist. *Jupiter* will remain on view until October 6, 2010 to correspond with a complete lunar cycle, from the beginning of a new moon to the end of its final quarter.

*Jupiter* features five round photographs exposing mysterious acts and props, but lacking a human presence. In one photograph, a camera sits alone in a room in front of open violin cases placed in the windows. In another, the camera captures a group of closed umbrellas balancing upright on the edge of a bed. Set against a solid, black background, each photograph resembles a planet floating in a night sky, an association reinforced by how they appear to be incrementally rotating in space.

To expand the spatial dimension of Oliver’s piece, artist Blanche Bruce and multiple groups of student musicians will perform “Jupiter” by John Coltrane on September 11, 18, 21, and October 2, 2010. Additionally, Oliver will join the New York chapter of the Amateur Astronomers Association on the High Line on September 21, 2010 to celebrate both the autumnal equinox and the Jupiter opposition – the day Earth passes between the Sun and Jupiter, making the distant planet most clearly visible. This year’s Jupiter opposition will be the closest the planet has been to the Earth since 1951.

*Jupiter* combines the eclectic fields of photography, performance, science, and theater to celebrate John Coltrane and Albert Einstein's approaches to their respective fields. Oliver drew inspiration from Coltrane's approach to music and composition, which Coltrane described as similar to Einstein's approach to the universe and mysteries of physics. Both Coltrane and Einstein essentially tried to reduce great complexities into simple concepts.

"Demetrius Oliver makes simultaneously intuitive and methodical connections between disparate things," said Lauren Ross, Friends of the High Line's Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Curator and Director of Arts Programs. "He breaks down the divisions between professionalism and amateurism, simplicity and complexity, time and space, and leads the viewer to think about what kinds of new creations can emerge when disciplines overlap."

Oliver's *Jupiter* is the latest public art installation presented by Friends of the High Line as part of High Line Art, a program that commissions innovative, temporary artworks for the High Line. High Line Art provides park visitors with a unique and enriching experience and introduces contemporary artists to a wide audience. More than two million visitors have come to the High Line since it opened one year ago. Other artworks currently on view include pieces by Spencer Finch, Richard Galpin, Valerie Hegarty, and Stephen Vitiello.

#### **About the Artist**

Demetrius Oliver has had solo exhibitions at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond; and the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, among other venues. Additionally, his work has been included in group exhibitions at Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Renaissance Society, University of Chicago; and the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York. He is the recipient of an award from the Rema Hort Mann Foundation, and his work is included in public collections at the Studio Museum; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Henry Art Gallery; and the Blanton Museum of Art. He lives and works in New York City, and is represented by D'Amelio Terras Gallery, New York and Inman Gallery, Houston.

#### **About Friends of the High Line**

Friends of the High Line is the non-profit conservancy working to build and maintain an extraordinary public park on the High Line. The organization raises the essential private funds to support more than 70 percent of the High Line's annual operating budget and oversees the park's maintenance and operations pursuant to a licensing agreement with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation.

#### **Support**

This High Line Art Commission is presented by Friends of the High Line and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. High Line Art Commissions are made possible by Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Additional support for *Jupiter* has been provided by The Greenwall Foundation, with in-kind support from Edison Properties and Maharam.