

The Granary Project 2007-10
Dan Peterman (American, b. 1960)
recycled plastic material over steel frame
Commissioned by the Art in Architecture Program,
State of Illinois Capital Development Board
Collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park
2010.001

Dan Peterman's sculpture and social activism have long provided a critique of contemporary culture's relationship to the earth.

The Granary Project re-interprets an earthenware funerary object at **The Art Institute of Chicago**. Dating from China's Han Dynasty, the tiny model represents a granary used to store millet, barley, and wheat. During this period of Chinese history, burial practices were filtering down from the Han aristocracy to local officials and landowners. Tomb models related to farming, an honored occupation, became increasingly popular.

The sculpture's modern presence can be appreciated on multiple levels. Illinois has historically provided much of the U.S. with bountiful harvests. This farm field has been certified for organic food production through the

*The installation of **The Granary Project** has been sponsored in memory of Anne and David by Alan Kawaters.*

University of Illinois Extension Agency. **The Granary Project** appears ready for a load of grain at any moment.

It also provides a critique of contemporary land use practices, highlighting issues of food security and land use. The artist hopes his work will pique interest in the "locavore" movement which promotes smaller, more local food production, over the mega-farms which have come to dominate agriculture in the U.S.

Finally, **The Granary Project** creates a conceptual and physical connection, via the nearby Metra line, between world-renowned collections at **The Art Institute of Chicago** and the **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park**.