

*Press Office*  
City of Chicago  
Department of Aviation



# News Release

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## **BLOWN-GLASS MURAL MAKES BIG IMPRESSION AT O'HARE** *Architectural Enhancement Adds Beauty, Soothes Passengers*

CHICAGO – Today, the Department of Aviation officially unveiled “Jet Trails”, the newest permanent addition to the public art program at O’Hare International Airport. The 50-foot long panoramic glass mural sculpture now greets passengers moving through the south security checkpoint in Terminal 1.

“This impressive glass sculpture has transformed the space with brilliant light and color,” said Acting Aviation Commissioner Richard L. Rodriguez. “We are proud to add this stunning piece of artwork to the existing collection of public art at our airports.”

The artwork was created by artist Guy Kemper and consists of hand-blown painted glass in cool shades of blue, green and violet. Measuring 50-feet in length and 12-feet in height, the mural is suspended onto the window mullions directly across from the south security checkpoint area. Its overhead position in the glass windows screens the glare of the sun during the day and is visible from all vantage points in the checkpoint area. “Jet Trails” was commissioned in collaboration with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs Public Art Program.

Kemper’s works have been exhibited nationally and internationally, and are included in museum, foundation, public and university collections. He is the recipient of major design awards, including one from the American Institute of Architects.

“I wanted to create something that was both beautiful to look at and soothing for passengers,” said Kemper. “I was inspired by the patterns of jet mist across a blue sky and wanted the work to be suggestive of many things related to flying—such as a kite, or the tail of an aircraft.”

Chicago’s airports have long served as a canvas for the City’s public arts programming with an emphasis on local and global interests. The City of Chicago’s world-renowned Public Art Program is reflected in dozens of art exhibitions at O’Hare and Midway International Airports.

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The Chicago Airport System is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O’Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago’s airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

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Editor's note: Two captioned photos attached.



**Photo Caption 1**

“Jet Trails”, located in Terminal 1 at O’Hare International Airport, was created by artist Guy Kemper and consists of hand-blown painted glass in cool shades of blue, green and violet. Kemper was inspired by the patterns of jet mist across a blue sky and wanted the work to suggest many things related to flying—such as a kite, or the tail of an aircraft.

Photo: James Steinkamp, Steinkamp Photography



**Photo Caption 2**

On May 9, the Department of Aviation officially unveiled “Jet Trails”, the newest permanent addition to the public art program at O’Hare International Airport. The 50-foot long panoramic glass mural sculpture now greets passengers moving through the south security checkpoint in Terminal 1.

(Pictured from left to right) Jill McGee, Deputy Commissioner of Marketing and Communications for the Department of Aviation; Allyson Murphy, Curator of Exhibits for the Department of Cultural Affairs Public Art Program; Artist Guy Kemper and Gregory Knight, Director of Visual Arts for the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Photo: Department of Aviation