

# Peter Hiers Collision Course

Beyond concern only for the environment, I am concerned with current trajectory of human activity on the planet, and in turn, on the ability of the Human Species to survive the long term effects of our current lifestyle. Every bag of groceries I bring home, and the clothes that I wear all represent thousands of transportation miles and countless gallons of irreplaceable fossil fuel burned to keep me alive another day. When I eat, I am consuming not just the food but also a portion of the resources that sustain all of us.

I enjoy working with these hybridized natural/ industrial rubber fragments, ripped apart by natural forces and left abandoned along the highways. I am drawn to the organic, wildly-textured qualities of this torn material, along with its vocabulary for social commentary. The ideas for my work come to me in visual images. Once I've made them, I gradually begin to see what they mean and what they are trying to say. These works are nonverbal attempts to express my concerns about this strange life-sustaining dependence on consuming finite resources for our daily survival needs. Rather than following the false belief that "more, bigger, better, quicker, easier, faster,

newer, for me now" leads to fulfillment, I wonder what new ideology we can create to replace that mantra with concepts like "enough, balance, and equilibrium." "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?"

*Richard Whittaker  
Founding Editor of [www2.crossingart.org](http://www2.crossingart.org)  
West Coast editor of *Parade magazine**

 crossing art

 Crossing 360





