

DIRECTIONS

Jim Hodges
DON'T BE AFRAID



WUJIGIRE UBWOBA

no TENGAS MIEDO

No tengas miedo

HE БОЈ СЕ

تترس

No tengas miedo!

Ma bevu

いふかゝたのて

Kan inkle radid!

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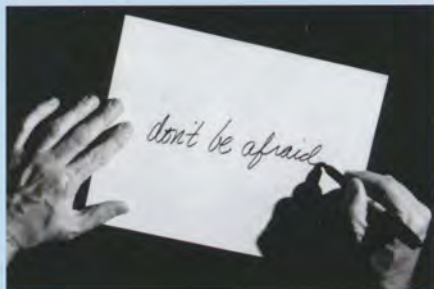
u se tšabe

Nu ar teama

Jim Hodges

American, b. Spokane, Washington, 1957

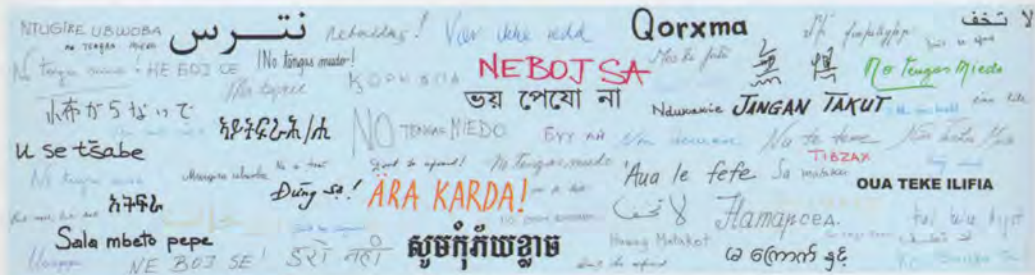
At the invitation of New York-based artist Jim Hodges, over ninety delegates to the United Nations translated the phrase “don’t be afraid” into their native language. The artist combined and enlarged the handwritten messages into an image presented as a billboard in Worcester, Massachusetts; London; Miami; Chicago; Santiago de Compostela, Spain; and now Washington, D.C.



The words “don’t be afraid” have appeared in Hodges’s art since 2000, first in a small, three-dimensional drawing and then in the more public format of a bumper sticker produced for the 2004 Whitney Biennial of American Art in New York. According to the artist, the phrase inspires “a sense of peace and freedom from fear.” In their present incarnation, which Hodges has described

as a “global chorus,” the words are both reassuring and open-ended, allowing viewers to develop interpretations that range from personal to political. At the Hirshhorn, the billboard enters a dialogue with Washington, D.C., a city at the center of international affairs and tourism that is home to a multi-cultural community reflecting the diverse nations represented in Hodges’s work.

Hodges has transformed everyday objects and experiences into artworks since the early 1990s. Employing techniques associated with crafts and materials such as artificial flowers, scarves, napkins, and tissue paper to blur distinctions





between high and low in art, he creates sculptural works that emphasize the beauty of basic objects, ideas, and emotions. Between 2003 and 2005, an exhibition of the artist's work traveled to several American venues; he has also had solo exhibitions in Brazil, England, The Netherlands, and Spain. His art was featured in the Hirshhorn's

Visual Music, on view through September 11, 2005. The artist received his BFA from Fort Wright College (1980) and MFA from the Pratt Institute (1986).

Kristen Hileman, Assistant Curator

Directions—Jim Hodges, don't be afraid is made possible by Ray Graham III, Trellis Fund, and Glenn Fuhrman, with additional support from anonymous donors.

1. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 2. **JANGAN TAKUT** (Malay: *Jangan takut*)
 3. **ARA KARDA!** (Azerbaijani: *Ara karda!*)
 4. **OUA TEKE ILIFIA** (Fijian: *Oua teke ilifia*)
 5. **SALA MBETO PEPE** (Swahili: *Sala mbeto pepe*)
 6. **NE BOJ SE** (Czech: *Ne boj se*)
 7. **QORXMA** (Georgian: *Qorxma*)
 8. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 9. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 10. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 11. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 12. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 13. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 14. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 15. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 16. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 17. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 18. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 19. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)
 20. **NEBOJ SA** (Slovene: *Ne boj se*)

Special Program

Meet the Artist: Jim Hodges, Wednesday, November 16, 7 pm
Hirshhorn Museum Ring Auditorium

Directions—Jim Hodges, don't be afraid will be on view through spring 2006.

www.hirshhorn.si.edu

Photo credits: front: Jim Hodges, don't be afraid installation in Miami (detail). Courtesy Tim Hailand, Jim Hodges, and CRG Gallery; inside (left-right): Jim Hodges writing "don't be afraid." Courtesy Tim Hailand, Jim Hodges, and CRG Gallery; don't be afraid, 2004–05, inkjet on vinyl. Courtesy the artist and CRG Gallery; don't be afraid installation at Worcester Art Museum. Courtesy the artist and CRG Gallery. Photo: Stephen Briggs; back: don't be afraid installation in London. Photo: Stephen White; postcard: Installation proposal for don't be afraid at the Hirshhorn Museum. Photo: Lee Stalworth and Chris Smith.



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