



ARTWORK **LA TORMENTA/THE STORM**

ARTIST **IÑIGO MANGLANO-OVALLE**

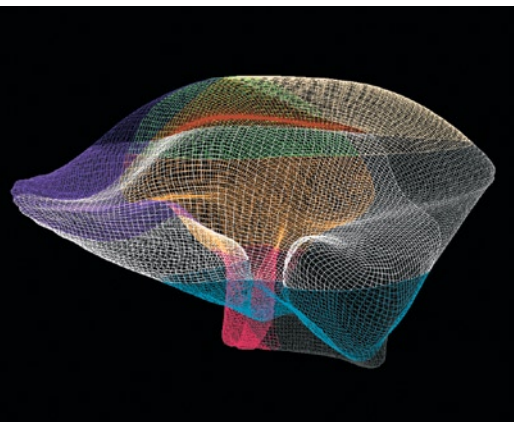
INSTALLED 2006  
U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle employs video, sculpture, performance, photography, and other media to explore the ways we understand the world through its natural and man-made systems. He often uses climate and its attributes—pressure, temperature, precipitation, direction, and velocity—as a metaphor for the continuous changes that happen within and among such systems. Weather profoundly influences physical and cultural environments, and Manglano-Ovalle uses it to investigate topics that are both timely and timeless in his artwork for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in Chicago.

To create *La Tormenta/The Storm* and a series of works based on clouds, Manglano-Ovalle teamed with the Department of Atmospheric Sciences (DAS) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and architect Douglas Garofalo. In 2002, a powerful storm system entered Illinois from Missouri. Using laser and digital technologies, climatologists at DAS tracked the storm as it spread over eighteen miles in length and produced strong atmospheric effects. Their study monitored the system's fluctuating composition as it responded to internal and external forces over a period of minutes. DAS shared the data with Manglano-Ovalle, who then worked with Garofalo to translate it as a virtual form based on the contours of the storm's core moments before it erupted. The evocative shapes that resulted were entered into a computer-controlled milling machine that carved molds to create casts for the final piece. When completed, the sculpture consisted of two nearly identical forms composed of cast fiberglass that were assembled and then covered by hand with titanium-alloy foil.

In *La Tormenta/The Storm*, Manglano-Ovalle has condensed a moment of time and atmospheric space into solid objects. Suspended from the building's atrium skylight, the sculptures' shimmering surfaces reflect the shifting qualities of light and air throughout each day. For Manglano-Ovalle, *La Tormenta/The Storm* is a complex metaphor for the historical waves of immigration into the United States: "All of those waves come with a great deal of hope and a great deal of anxiety. And that's what a thunderstorm is—it's one of the most destructive and most productive events. It wreaks havoc, and yet it makes it possible for us to eat and grow food. The piece in a sense reflects its public—they are the storm. *La tormenta somos nosotros* [We are the storm]." MF





**Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle** was born in Madrid, Spain, in 1961 and was raised in Bogotá, Colombia, and Chicago—where he lives today and is a professor in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of Chicago. Manglano-Ovalle earned a BA in art and art history and a BA in Latin American and Spanish literature from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, in 1983. He earned his MFA in sculpture from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1989.

Individual exhibitions of his work include, *Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle: Blinking Out of Existence* (2006) at the Rochester Art Center in Minnesota; *Focus: Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle* (2005) at the Art Institute of Chicago; *White Flags* (2002) at the Barcelona Pavilion of the Mies van der Rohe Foundation in Barcelona, Spain; and *Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle* (2001) organized by the Cranbrook Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, which traveled to four additional museums. Manglano-Ovalle's work also has been included in numerous group exhibitions, including *Documenta XII* (2007) in Kassel, Germany; *Moving Pictures* (2002-03) at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York; *Ultra Baroque: Aspects of Post Latin American Art* (2000-03) at the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego and five other museums; and the Twenty-Fourth International São Paulo Bienal (1998) in Brazil. Among Manglano-Ovalle's many awards are fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1995) and the MacArthur Foundation (2001). His public commissions include *Portrait of a Young Reader* (2006) for the Bronx Library Center in New York and the forthcoming *Drift* for the city of Miami Beach, Florida.



MEDIUM CAST FIBERGLASS AND TITANIUM-ALLOY FOIL  
DIMENSIONS TWO SCULPTURES, EACH 10 FT X 11 FT X 16 FT