

Activity Guide

**Jim Hodges**

**With Liberty  
and Justice for  
All (A Work in  
Progress)**

This activity guide is a resource for teens and adults to learn about their relationship to the words that Jim Hodges presents across the museum's façade. Spend time looking and let these questions and activities help you unpack different ways to read and connect with what you see.

All new Aspen Art Museum inaugural exhibitions are generously underwritten by Stefan Edlis and Gael Neeson. Indirect exhibition costs are funded in part by the AAM National Council. AAM education programs are made possible by the Questrom Education Fund. Education Workshop support is provided by Melva Bucksbaum and Raymond Learsy and Mary and Patrick Scanlan. Scholarships for AAM Summer Workshops are funded by Cari and Michael J. Sacks.

## **Explore Jim Hodges's sculpture *With Liberty and Justice for All (A Work in Progress)*, installed outdoors in the Commons of the new Aspen Art Museum.**

Jim Hodges is best known for his text-based artworks. He was born in 1957 in Spokane, Washington, and lives and works in New York. He returns to Aspen, having designed the 2008–2009 Aspen Skiing Company lift ticket featuring the phrase “Give More Than You Take,” which was also included in his 2009 solo exhibition at the AAM, *you will see these things*. In much of his work, Hodges speaks directly in brief yet powerful statements that address us right here, right now.

*With Liberty and Justice for All (A Work in Progress)* wraps around the AAM building in larger-than-life reflective letters. This familiar ending to the Pledge of Allegiance of the United States emphasizes three important ideas of human rights and equality.

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, **with liberty and justice for all.**”

By isolating this phrase from the Pledge of Allegiance, Hodges disconnected these words from their familiar form and asks us to read deeper into their meaning.

**How often do you read,  
hear, or even speak words  
without thinking deeply  
about their meaning?**

Explore the main words found in Jim Hodges’s installation using these facts and questions for each layer of reading:

Understand the **origin (O)** and use of the word

Consider various **meanings (M)** and associations of the word

Propose your **personal (P)** analysis and opinions of the word

## Liberty

**O:** The root *liber* is Latin for “free.”

**M:** What are different types of liberties and freedoms?

**P:** What can you do with your liberties?

## Justice

**O:** The root *jus* is Latin for “law.”

**M:** How is justice different from liberty?

**P:** Who gets to decide what is fair and just?

## All

**O:** The root *eall* is Old English for “entire” or “without limit.”

**M:** What are other words that mean “all”?

**P:** Do you believe that all people experience the Pledge of Allegiance in the same way?

What are other words or phrases that you think have a relationship to the word **equality**?

Write them in the space below:

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their answer to the question above.

Ask someone to read your phrase using the three layers of reading: origin, meaning, and personal.

How do they interpret your words?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the majority of the page below the text. It is intended for the user to write their response to the question above.