Lincoln, MA, July 6, 2010 – DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is proud to present PLATFORM 4: Type A, the fourth in the site-oriented PLATFORM series which will run from September 18, 2010–January 9, 2011. For PLATFORM 4 the collaborative team Type A, Adam Ames and Andrew Bordwin will exhibit a large-scale, outdoor installation, Barrier, and an indoor exhibition of photographs and sculpture that speak to the increasing encroachment of security culture onto public space.

“We are thrilled to be involved with Barrier, an ambitious project by one of the most exciting artistic collaboratives working today,” notes Dina Deitsch, deCordova’s Associate Curator for Contemporary Art. “Barrier greatly expands on the characteristics of Type A’s work, marked by a mixture of social critique, art historical awareness, and humor, bridging the gaps between high conceptualism and materiality.”

Barrier, 2009, is an installation of 24 identical concrete sculptures that take the form of curved “Jersey Barriers.” Originally designed for highway medians, the typically straight concrete dividers were quickly adopted after 9/11 as security barricades for public buildings and have now become synonymous with our rising security culture. The installation will radically bisect space to obstruct and re-route pedestrian traffic near the Museum building’s entrance, challenging audiences to question our cultural desire to “protect and defend.” The outdoor installation of Barrier will be on view until June 2011.

Barrier is an institutional collaboration among deCordova, the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT, and the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY. This partnership reflects deCordova’s own mission to further support and promote contemporary art in New England, and to welcome future institutional relationships. Like deCordova, the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum and the Tang Teaching Museum strive to provide their regions with emerging current artists and to encourage educational programs designed to create dialogue and to connect audiences to contemporary art.

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Accompanying the *Barrier* project at deCordova will be a related installation in the Museum’s 2nd Floor Galleries of a new neon sculpture, *Target (Neon)*, 2010, and the photographic series, *Insertions*, 2007. *Target* pictures the gun-toting thug from shooting targets used by the NYPD, and now the Department of Homeland Security, in pink neon. Simultaneously threatening and alluring, the glowing figure merges a ubiquitous, menacing, and masculine image into an overtly feminine and red-light district-style sign.

The 2007 photographs are prescient images of the artists posed in concrete urban spaces of highway underpasses and parking garages. These scenes were first planned just months before September 11, 2001, when similarly cold, geometric architecture would crumble onto actual bodies. Exposing only limbs or fragments of their bodies, the artists interject subtle and unsettling flashes of humanity into gray, unanimous, and heavy architectural spaces that can easily be categorized as masculine. Their engagement with public space is both playful and dark, all the while addressing the gendered nature of our built environment. Like the outdoor sculptures, the new work and photographs speak to the ambiguity of signs and the effect of national security on urban landscapes.

In conjunction with **PLATFORM 4: Type A**, a selection of photographs from deCordova’s permanent collection will be exhibited in an adjacent gallery that speaks to Type A's interest in male competition and collaboration and how that can be channeled into aggressive behavior – through sports or the growing security culture of protection. *Manly Pursuits: Selections from the Permanent Collection* consists of a small sampling of work that addresses sport, competition, the male form, and in the case of Harold ‘Doc’ Edgerton’s flash photography, an ever absorbing interest in guns.

The 2009-2010 PLATFORM series is funded in part by James and Audrey Foster. **PLATFORM 4: Type A** will be accompanied by a brochure and is organized by Dina Deitsch, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art.

**About the Artists**

Ames and Bordwin have been collaborating since 1998 as Type A. In their video, photography, drawing, performance and, most recently, large-scale sculptural installations, Type A addresses issues of competition, masculinity, and the aesthetics of collaboration in and of itself. Fusing the traditions of minimalist sculpture and conceptual practices, their work is inflected with history, humor, and a healthy dose of the absurd, affectively approaching larger questions of social behavior and art’s capacity to stage experiences and interactions.

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Type A has had solo exhibitions at The List Visual Arts Center, MIT, Cambridge, MA; Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, MA; Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA; Robert Goff Gallery, New York, NY; Sara Meltzer Gallery, New York, NY. Their work has been featured in group exhibitions at 100 Acres: Virginia Fairbanks Art & Nature Park, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN; Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY; P.S.1. Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York, NY; Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis, MN; White Columns, New York, NY; among others. Type A is the subject of a monograph edited by Lisa Frieman and published by Hatje Cantz and Indianapolis Museum of Art.

About the PLATFORM series
PLATFORM is a series of solo exhibitions by early and mid-career artists from both the New England and national arts communities. These shows focus on work that engages with deCordova's unique architectural spaces and social, geographical, and physical location. The PLATFORM series is intended as a support for creativity and expression of new ideas, and as a catalyst for dialogue about contemporary art.

About deCordova
DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum was established in 1950 to educate the public about American contemporary art. DeCordova’s unique campus features both indoor and outdoor venues, allowing its visitors to celebrate and explore contemporary art across 35 acres. Inside, the Museum features a robust slate of rotating exhibitions and innovative interpretive programming. Outside, deCordova’s Sculpture Park hosts more than 60 works, the majority of which are on loan to the Museum. DeCordova also offers the largest non-degree granting studio art program in New England. DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum attracts more than 100,000 visitors from New England and tourists from around the world to its campus each year and enrolls more than 3,000 students of all ages in its studio art program.

General Information
DeCordova is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 am to 5 pm and on selected Monday holidays. General admission during Museum hours is $12 for adults; $8 for senior citizens, students, and youth ages 6-12. Children age 5 and under, Lincoln residents, and Active Duty Military Personnel and their dependents are admitted free. The Sculpture Park is open year-round during daylight hours. Guided public tours of the Museum’s main galleries take place every Thursday at 1 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. Tours of the Sculpture Park are given on Saturday and Sunday at 1 pm from April to November. All guided tours are free with Campus admission. Visit www.decordova.org or call 781.259.8355 for further information.

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