

# ARTFORUM

## Hard Truths: The Art of Thornton Dial Previews: Indianapolis Museum of Art

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January 2011



Thornton Dial, *Don't Matter How Raggy the Flag, It Still Got to Tie Us Together*, 2003, mattress coils, clothing, can lids, found metal, plastic twine, wire, Splash Zone compound, enamel, spray paint on canvas on wood, 71 x 114 x 8".

Mixing media but never his message, Thornton Dial turns his perspicacious eye to events local and global in his most comprehensive show to date. "Hard Truths" features seventy large-scale paintings, drawings, and found-object sculptures, which take an unblinking look at subjects that might seem outside the purview of a self-taught artist—the Iraq war, 9/11, and Obama's election, to name a few. Focusing on the past two decades, the show finds the Alabama-born artist expanding on his main themes: racism; regionalism; and the working class, women, and others positioned at a distance from the American dream. The catalogue features essays from leading scholars of African-American art and culture such as Greg Tate and David Driskell, in addition to the curator.