

Artists create moving sculptures for Kinetic Art Exhibit



Special effects Artist Stefan Radu Cretu and director Guy Williamson apply beach sand to the paint by hand to add texture to the finish of the "Moonfish" piece. Gene Nardi/Correspondent (Gene Nardi/Courtesy)



Jan Engoren Contact Reporter South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Visitors to the city of Boynton Beach's third Biennial International Kinetic Art Exhibit and Symposium Feb. 4 and 5 will have the chance to view the variety of kinetic artworks installed in and around the downtown area.

Part of the city's Art in Public Places program, the event is designed to connect art to the general public, create gathering spaces in public places and engaging visitors to learn more about the art form.

"This year's exhibit includes a diverse collection of kinetic artworks from a cross-section of national and international artists that are animating downtown Boynton Beach," said Debby Coles-Dobay, the city's public arts manager.

During the inaugural year in 2013, entries came in from eight countries and four continents, including Switzerland, India, China and Canada. This year 32 artists from five countries and 14 states will participate.

Attendees will be able to view kinetic-inspired exhibits, participate in community projects, meet and greet the artists and attend a lecture series with presenters including Noam Ben-Jacov, Eleonora Nicoletti, Anthony Castrovono, Ron Jaffe, Ralfonso, Don Redman and Romanian artist Stefan Radu Cretu.



Boynton Beach Town Square will feature new public art, some of the pieces being kinetic. Public Art manager Debby Coles-Dobay explains the new additions created by artists around the nation.

Cretu, whose artwork has never been exhibited before in the United States, will install his original work, which merges solar and mechanical kinetics, a piece created specifically for the exhibit.

He has created site-specific artworks for the event, including "Moonfish" which includes solar-powered moving elements that are electro-mechanically set in motion by sensors. Viewers can interact with the work of art through vividly lit panels.

"We are very honored that Stefan has traveled all the way to Boynton Beach from his home in Romania to create an original kinetic art sculpture for our third biennial event," Coles-Dobay said.

Cretu's second artwork "Open Air Aquarium" depicts Florida's coastal environment in which reef squid reside and play a unique role in the coral habitat.

Various sizes of mechanized reef squid will be suspended within the open air aquarium as if swimming in the ocean currents.

In addition, Cretu will exhibit 10 kinetic sketches made from recycled trash bags, fiberglass, metal and wood and have electric components that depict ocean sea life.

He studied at the Art and Design University in Cluj and graduated from the Ceramic-Glass-Metal department in 2006. He received his master's degree in sculpture from the National University of Arts in Bucharest in 2008 and graduated in 2016 with a Ph.D in Visual Arts from the same university.

At the lecture series, artists will discuss the history of kinetic art, the different forms of the art, use of technology and the future of the art form.

In addition, there will be more than 60 indoor kinetic artworks on display at the Boynton Beach Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave.

Visitors will view San Diego artist Amos Robinson's 15-foot stainless steel sculpture "Revelation," complete with steel feathers and a red glowing orb designed to create reflections as the piece sways with the wind at 135 E. Ocean Ave.

Also on display are Paul Daniel's "Kiko Cy," in honor of his father Cy, and Kevin Dural's "Jovial," inspired by the birth of his daughter Jovie, and Craig Gray's "Winds of Wine," a giant whimsical corkscrew with a spinning handle inspired by Lori Durante's Taste History Culinary Tours.

"After seeing Lori's emails promoting her culinary tours, I wanted to create something more offbeat and realistic, in the nature of pop art," said Gray, of Key West.

Kinetic artist Elayna Toby Singer, People's Choice winner in 2015, envisioned "Kinetic Intentions," an outdoor living mobile created with 150, 6-foot-long strands of mirrors, bells, found washers, community- created mini-mahogany mobiles and ribbons - all designed to animate in the wind.

"Kinetic Intentions is an experiential community sculpture that sets in motion aspirations for personal and environmental balance," Singer said in a statement. "The second in my series of temporary, site-specific community tree sculptures, 'Kinetic Intentions' mobilizes the community to reimagine and breathe new life into everyday objects and a small city park."

According to Singer, the mobile is inspired by "Wishing Trees" a multicultural tradition of attaching cloth with written wishes or desires to trees so the wind will activate dreams into reality.

The International Kinetic Art Exhibit and Symposium was created by the Boynton Beach Arts Commission and produced by the city of Boynton Beach through its Art in Public Places program.

It's supported by High Ridge Landing, Compson Associates, Kinetic Art Organization, International Sculpture Center and the Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency.

Visit IntlKineticArtEvent.org for a complete schedule of events and venues.

jengoren@tronc.com

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