

Napa Valley *Register*

3 New Sculpture Chosen for Yountville Art Walk

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"Slices of Heaven" by Craig Gray, is an art installation
By Craig Gray of Key West, Florida

More than three dozen artworks on display in downtown Yountville may soon gain company.

Three installations from Florida, Texas and Canada have gained the blessing of the Upvalley resort town's Arts Commission to be shown as part of the Yountville Art Walk. If the creators can agree on locations with town officials, the artworks would arrive as soon as this summer and remain visible to tourists and passers-by for up to two years.

On Monday, the commission selected three works out of 11 entries – “Slices of Heaven” by Craig Gray of Key West, “Leaf Weathervane” by Doug Taylor of Vancouver, British Columbia, and “Hy-Parabolic” by Melissa Borrell of Austin, Texas.

A 9-foot-high array of four orange wedge forms in concrete, stucco and steel, “Slices of Heaven” – one of several similar creations by Gray – previously was exhibited in Bonita Springs, Florida and also is scheduled for a showing in Chicago, according to Samantha Holland, Yountville parks and recreation director.

“Leaf Weathervane” is a 10-foot-long, leaf-shaped mesh of stainless steel, mounted to a swivel and designed to turn 360 degrees in a breeze or wind. A version of the vane was installed in the rooftop garden of the Vancouver Performing Arts Lodge in 2014, according to Taylor’s website.

The third artwork, “Hy-Parabolic,” is an array of steel strings forming an upward curve and downward slope within the 90-degree angle formed by two 8-foot-tall panels.

Pieces approved by the Yountville Arts Commission could appear as soon as a month or two, Holland said Tuesday.

Launched in 2009, the Yountville Art Walk showcases a collection of open-air sculptures adorning Washington and Yount streets and nearby properties in the town center. Most pieces are on temporary display and are offered for sale, with a percentage of each purchase funding art-related activities in the town.

The outdoor collection also includes some sculptures on permanent display such as “Chaos Pamplona,” a 26-foot stack of square black cast-bronze frames that has stood outside the Bardessono luxury hotel since 2011.

In Napa, a similar ARTwalk program has been jointly sponsored by the city and Arts Council Napa Valley since 2010, and currently features 14 sculptures on display in the downtown district for two years.

