

Stone sea creatures take over the Armory Sculpture Garden

The Studios of Key West welcomes CR Gray, a stone carver from Hiram, Maine, as the next artist whose work will be featured in the Armory Sculpture Garden at 600 White St. Gray's beautiful Stone Sea Mammal Series will be on display in the garden from May 7 through late June.

A free artist talk and demonstration by Gray will be followed by a public reception at the Armory on Thursday, May 12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. All are invited to attend, and families with children are encouraged to take advantage of this special opportunity.

Gray's talk will focus on the tools and techniques used by contemporary stone carvers, and will include an explanation of how various power tools are used to achieve different effects.

"My philosophy is simple: create art from earth," says Gray. "Almost anyone can



'Impala Dolphin' sculpture from the Stone Mammal Series.



'Sperm Whale' sculpture also from the Stone Mammal Series.

learn to carve if they wish, it only takes inspiration, skill and mostly time."

Gray's inviting sculptures are truly hands-on pieces. The simple fluid forms and soft textures he incorporates practically call out to be touched, and audiences are allowed and encouraged to do so.

Gray has been carving stone for the past 20 years. He had several years of formal training in Barre, Vt., as an apprentice stone carver and then his own apprentice program for 10 years.

Recently, Gray has been selected to create a temporary art installation for the City of Pittsfield, Mass., and has been selected to create a large public art installation, called Rock

Lobster, for the City of Boston this spring.

Gray is also one of three artists accepted for a public arts piece in Boston called ID ART: Temporary Public Art in the Innovation District of Boston. This special project, put forth by the Boston Redevelopment Authority, in coordination with the Boston Art Commission, sought proposals for temporary public

artworks to be considered for an 18-month installation to celebrate the innovative and ecological spirit that will define Boston's Innovation District.

If you would like to learn more about arranging a field trip for your school or other group view of CR Gray's work, contact TSKW Facilities Manager Lauren McAloon at 305-296-0458.

Copied from the May 5-May 11 Edition of the Paradise Weekly Entertainment Guide for the Keys - A publication of The Citizen, Key West, Florida.