

South Florida **Sun-Sentinel**

Kinetic art pops up in City's Downtown

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New kinetic art sculptures started to spring up last month by Boynton Beach City Hall, Ocean Avenue, Northeast Fourth Street and Boynton Beach Boulevard. The work is being installed in advance of the city's third biennial International Kinetic Art Exhibition and Symposium Feb. 3 to 5 and is part of the city's Art in Public Places program.

This year's exhibit includes a diverse collection of kinetic artworks that are animating downtown Boynton Beach," said Debby Coles-Dobay, the city's public arts manager. "We welcome visitors to be inspired, delighted and intrigued."

The international kinetic event is designed to connect art to the general public, create gathering spaces in public places and engage visitors to want to learn more.

During the first year in 2013, entries came in from eight countries and four continents, including Switzerland, India, China and Canada.



Already installed at 135 E. Ocean Ave. is 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 moves with the wind.

Robinson, 64, said he has been inspired to create mobiles ever since visiting the Calder exhibit at the Guggenheim Museum in 1964.

He went on to have a career as a businessman, until 15 years ago when he received a public art commission.

"After that, I never looked back," he said. "I'm lucky to have found what I do. I love it – it's thrilling."

He plans to come to Boynton Beach for the symposium in February, and said, "Debby and her crew are wonderful. She takes a difficult task and makes it look easy."

Key West artist Craig Gray said he is excited to have his works on display in Boynton Beach for the fourth year. His other works in Boynton Beach have included "Pac-MAN," "Singing Fish" and "Fishsticks Flying."

This year, Gray said he was inspired by the Taste History Culinary Tours offered by Lori Durante, which combine art, history, food and culture in tours of Delray Beach, Lake Worth, Boynton Beach, Lantana and West Palm Beach.

"Many kinetic sculptures are abstract, mostly metal with abstract shapes that move with the wind," he said. "After seeing Lori's emails promoting her culinary tours, I wanted to create something more offbeat and realistic, in the nature of pop art."

With that in mind, Gray has created a giant corkscrew with a spinning handle opening a coral stone wine cork flanked by two cork benches, that he said is not only creative, but also humorous.

His 12-foot-tall "Winds of Wine" sculpture will be installed this month at 123 E. Ocean Ave.

Gray is also complimentary of Coles-Dobay's efforts.

"For a medium-sized city, everything is spot-on," he said. "I'd say it is one of the best public art programs in the country."