

FLYING CARPET

Large-Scale Public Art





Analemma's Dilemma

2019

Sam Houston State University | Huntsville, TX

Stainless steel, mosaic

100' x 35' x 23' high

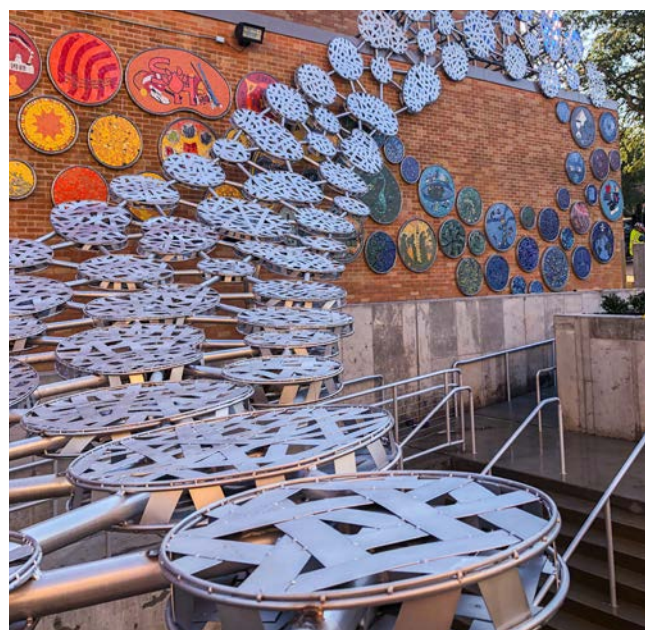
The 'analemma' is a figure-8 form that describes the position of the sun relative to any one consistent point on earth over the course of a year. This shape results from the tilt of the earth's axis of rotation and was the inspiration for our sculpture at Sam Houston State University. Hundreds of woven stainless steel shapes form a flowing analemma pattern, activating the plaza and providing dappled shade. Where the form splashes onto the existing brick wall, the stainless components shift into an array of mosaic medallions, designed and executed by collaborator and local artist Dan Phillips. Drawing from his background as a government codebreaker in the 1970s, Phillips encoded a complex puzzle within the colorful mosaic disks. This work, located in front of the new Lowman Student Center, provides students an interesting canopy to shelter beneath, as well as an ongoing conversation about the puzzle contained within.

Project Reference

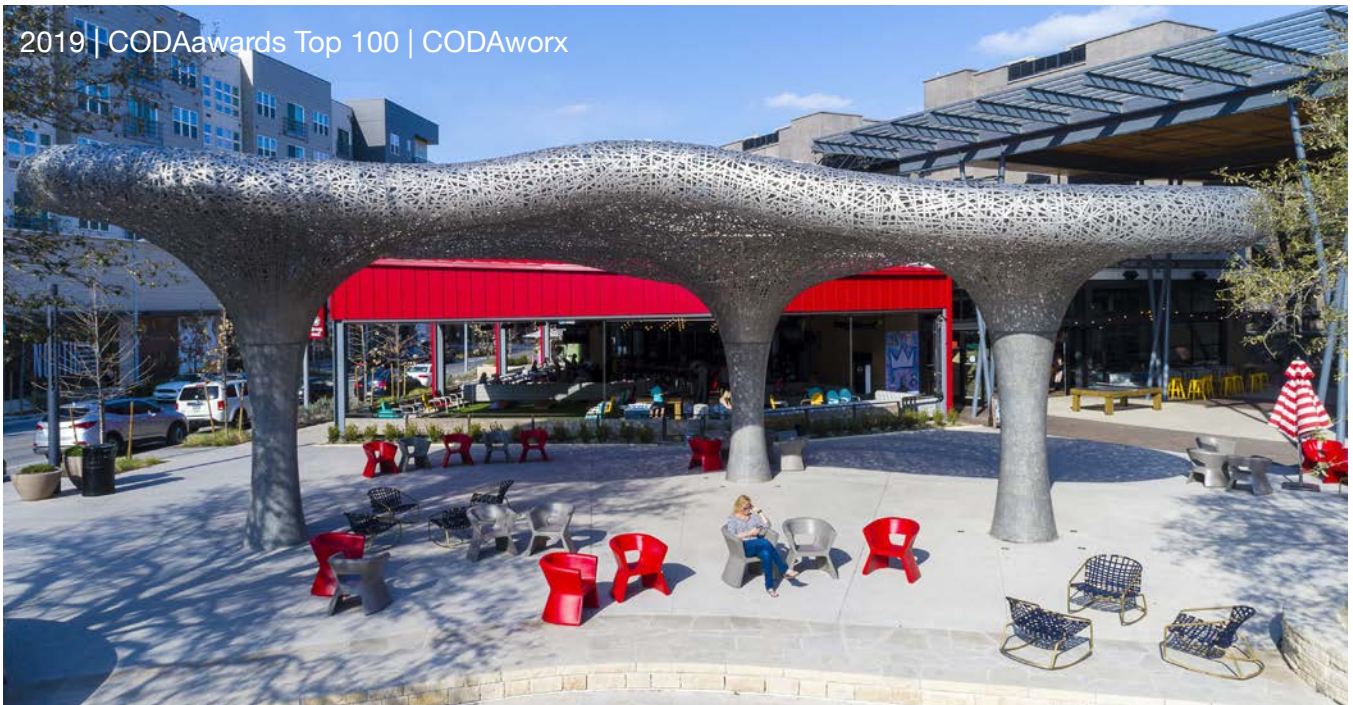
Marie Hoke |Project Architect/Urban Planner

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2019 | CODAwards Top 100 | CODAworx



RHYZ

2016

The Domain NORTHSIDE | Austin, TX

Stainless steel, concrete, LEDs

70' x 35' x 23' high

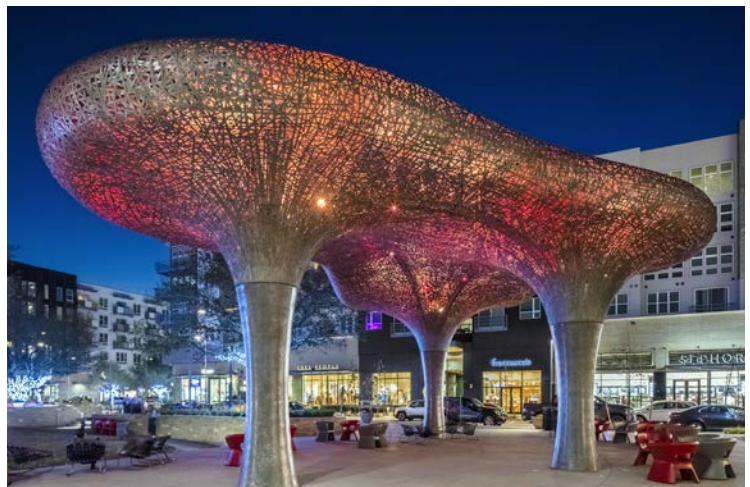
The title of this monumental work derives from the term “rhizome”, a subterranean network of connected plants. Bolstered by its location within the central green space of the outdoor-concept mall, *RHYZ* resembles a group of trees clustered together forming a shade structure. Its curvaceous airy canopy is formed of woven stainless steel and sits atop three massive custom-cast columns. The austere daytime look of the sculpture is counterpointed by a nighttime ‘lantern effect’ achieved through internal colored lighting via programmable LEDs. *RHYZ* provides the Domain with a central meeting place where locals and tourists can congregate, day or night, and enjoy the plaza.

Project Reference

Philip Koske, PLA, LEED AP | Principal

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2017 | Outstanding Public Art Project | Public Art Network of the Americans for the Arts



Trumpet Flower

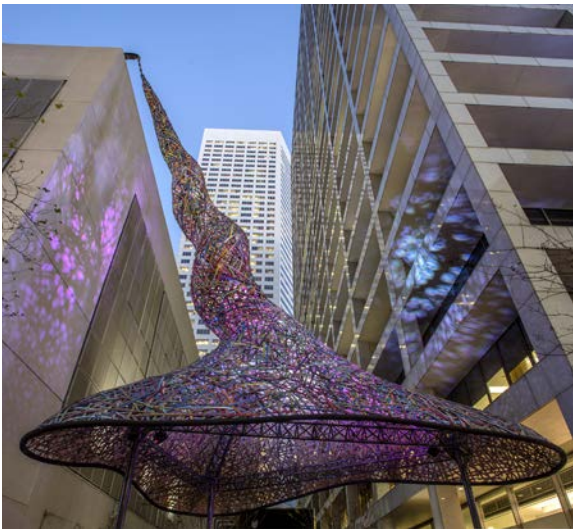
2016

Main Street Square | Houston, TX

Painted wood, steel

35' x 37' x 67' high

Plants of the *Brugmansia* genus are unique in that their pendulous flowers (also called “angel’s trumpets”), while beautiful, are one of the most toxic flowers, known to cause delirium and hallucinations to anyone who ingests them. This duality between alluring beauty and subsequent danger was the inspiration for the 6-story sculpture, which took temporary residence in downtown Houston’s Main Street Square for two years.



The sculpture’s large canopy, echoing the eponymous flora, was clad in a bright network of woven wood strips. Its large cavernous form, replete with technicolor surface and ethereal lighting, was a surprise to visitors upon discovering it nestled within the austere architecture of the surrounding skyscrapers. Houston’s public was invited to participate in the creation of *Trumpet Flower* by helping paint the myriad wood strips that ultimately comprised its surface. Over 1,000 people turned up to contribute their artistic energy at the public painting party--a phenomenal success, both for the outcome of the artwork and for community-building.

Project Reference

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Trumpet Flower was awarded Outstanding Public Art Project in 2017 from the Public Art Network of the Americans for the Arts.



ReFractured

2019

Energy Institute | Houston, TX
Etched Glass, automotive paint
70' long x 24' high

ReFractured shows the transformative magic and color of refraction (when white light passes through a medium) and celebrates the scientific discoveries made using optical lenses throughout history. The development of lenses has allowed mankind to explore the far reaches of the cosmos, and peer deep into the microscopic life on our own planet. The human eye--also a lens--is a witness to these discoveries, and can be enhanced by other, more powerful lenses created by the human hand. Illustrating this magnified ability to see, *ReFractured* features over 1,000 colored glass elements etched with macro images of the irises of each student at the school, and hung in an array that emulates a prismatic effect.

Project Reference

Lori Lambropoulos | Principal
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Xylem

2019

Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
Houston, TX

Various domestic and exotic hardwoods, stainless steel
40' x 5' high

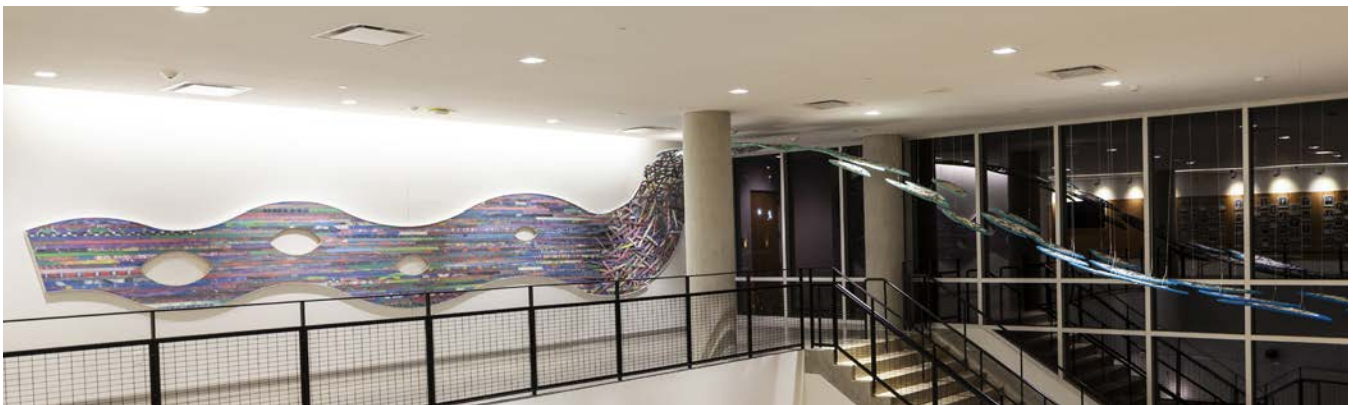
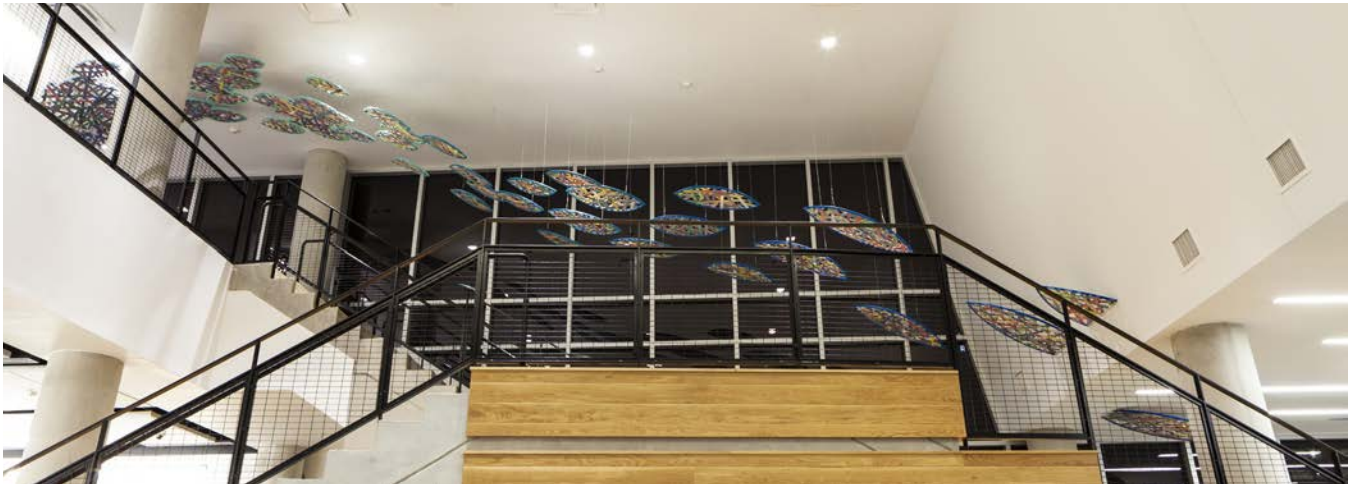
To celebrate their generous donors, the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts commissioned a large art piece to inset into the curved feature wall in the entryway of their new facility. This donor wall is painstakingly constructed from over a dozen varieties of hardwood in a spectrum of natural colors and grain patterns. The long, curved surface describes a waveform, crested with a single meandering stainless steel rod. Starting out at one end with an active wave, the stainless line gradually flattens out by the time it travels across the expanse, and dives into the polished wooden surface of the sculpture just before it reaches the end. *Xylem* invokes the visual landscape of fine arts blended with the changing patterns and resonance of performance.



Project Reference

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Lilt

2019

Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
Houston, TX

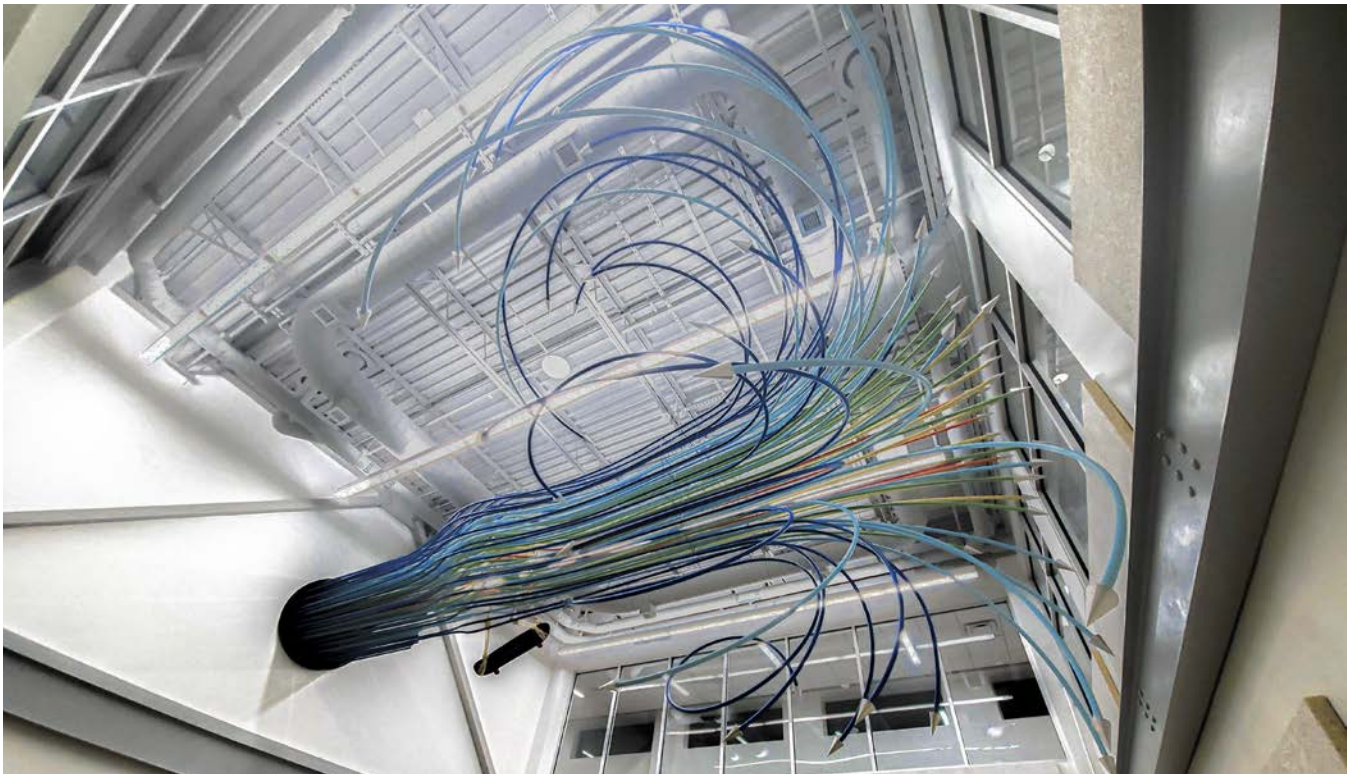
Painted wood, steel, paint
20' x 35' x 23' high

Half wall piece, half hanging sculpture, this ribbon of painted wood gradually breaks apart into organic clumps that bounce off the ceiling and then splash out into space, where they further clarify into individual leaf shapes. The entire installation travels overhead down the main staircase, dives through a wall, and dances in space in the common area of the entryway. Much as the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts guides its students to explore through the lens of artistic interpretation, this artwork pushes the boundaries of the architecture that frames it.

Project Reference

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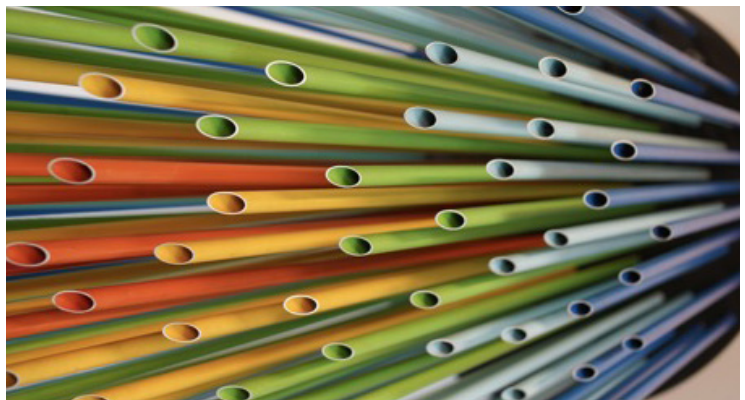


Scientific Method Air

2019

Energy Institute High School | Houston, TX
Aluminum, found objects & paint
30' x 20' x 12' high

Originating from a pseudo air vent, a multicolored stream of vectors describe airflow around an anatomically correct skeleton frozen in a skateboarding pose, and then curve away in all directions upon hitting the adjacent wall. Suspended overhead in a maker space, students can enjoy this sculptural illustration of Bernoulli's Principle, which attempts to bring forward unseen aspects of the physical world through suspended animation. Derived from fluid flow simulations, *Scientific Method Air* inverts the visible, in this instance transposing the human body with the invisible air that surrounds us.



Project Reference

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Sluice

2019

HEB Buffalo Heights | Houston, TX

Reclaimed wood, plastic, paint

120' x 15' x 18' high

Sliced and juiced, this fresh produce from Flying Carpet is an artistic intervention unlike any you will find in another grocery store, thanks to visionary host HEB at their new Buffalo Heights location. This celebration of sustainability through repurposed material adds a splash of color and movement to the clean lines of the inviting store. A flock of juicy disks flies through the foyer, gushing from the origin on the wall: a mythical amalgamated future-fruit...maybe a citrus...a melon...or something else..? The sculpture was brought to fruition thanks to the input of many people, hailing from all parts of Houston, who painted the slats (cut from wood saved from the landfill), which were used to surface the fruit slices. Most of these wood strips were newly minted for this piece, though some were also recycled from previous projects, resulting in a smorgasbord of creative energy. Coupled with the wooden wall component is an aerial ballet of reclaimed plastic pieces. This colorful array of disks flows in a dynamic path through the store's entryway, a tasty aperitif to the experience that awaits shoppers within.



Project Reference

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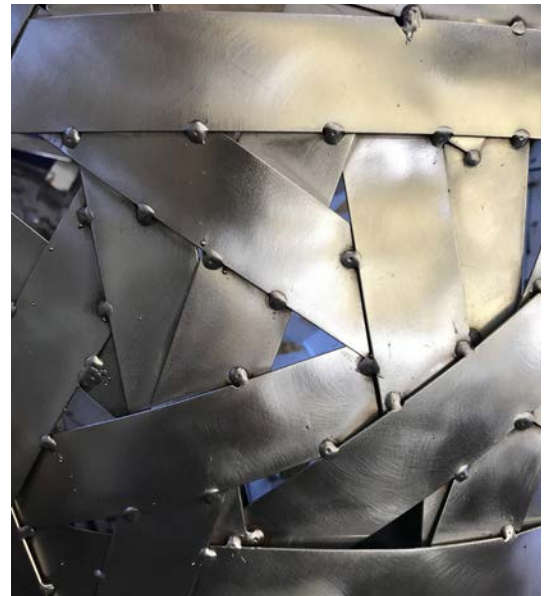
Sun Pitchers

2018

Stainless steel, cast glass

7 elements ranging from 12-15' tall

Comprised of an array of seven elements, this installation in Winridge Park is a kind of deconstructed bouquet fanning out across the previously empty green space. Sunlight filters through cast colored glass pieces trapped in the woven stainless steel cones that top each totem. The pitchers present various viewing experiences: they shift from a tight cluster to an open, meandering line from one's changing vantage point driving past, and can conversely be observed up-close at leisure, where they challenge human scale as visitors to the park move among this grove of exotic flora.



Project Reference

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Dunes

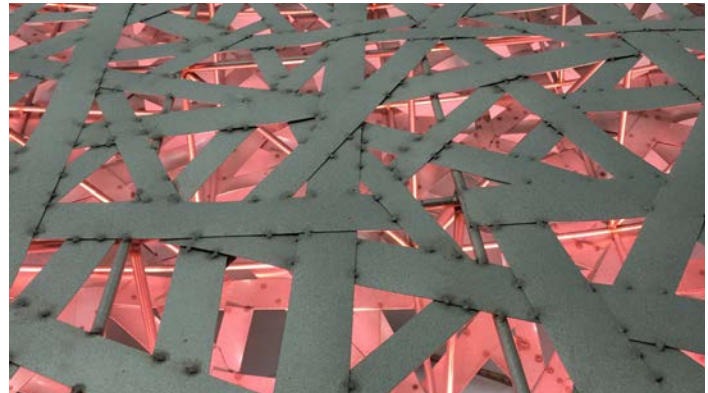
2017

Noble Energy | Houston, TX

Stainless steel

2' x 22' x 4' | 2' x 18' x 6" | 2' x 14" x 8' high

This suite of bladelike sculptures carve space with their varying curved edges, positioned in a sweeping concentric pattern. The aspect ratio of each unit shifts in profile while maintaining approximately the same thickness and surface area across the array; one is tall and narrow, the next is rather square in its length to height relationship, and the third is long and low. Made from woven and sandblasted stainless steel strips over a networked rod infrastructure, their dynamic surface fabric contrasts the three simple, sleek forms.

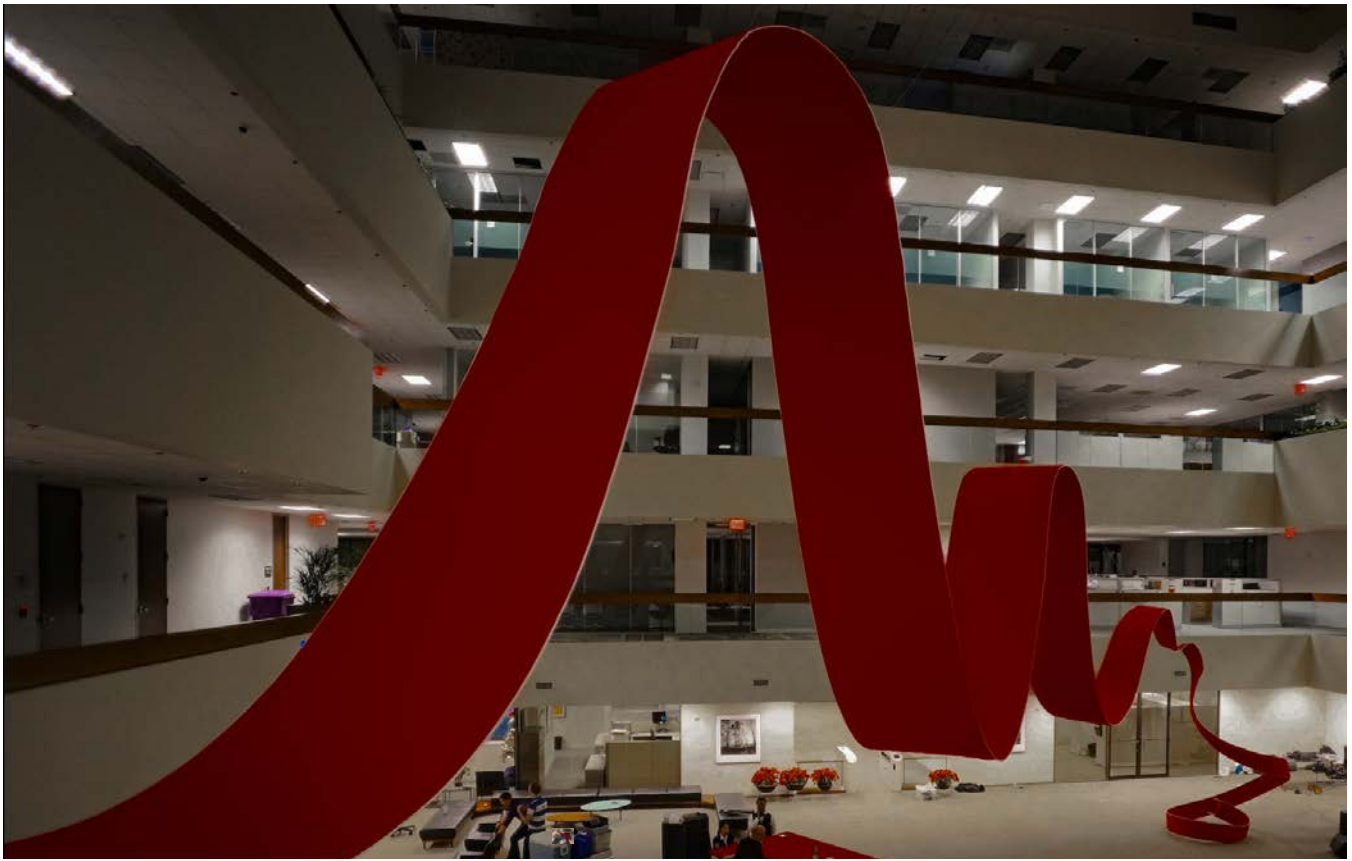


Project Reference

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Unveil

2015

AIG | Houston, Texas

Fabric

280' long x 55' high

Unveil celebrates the ephemerality of the physical world by freezing a moment in time. This 280 foot “falling ribbon” is an annual holiday installation commissioned by AIG Houston, suspended within the building’s atrium, a well of natural light. It was constructed using high quality hand- and machine-sewn fabric, nylon rope edging, and a covert infrastructure. Installed using a custom winch system hidden behind the architecture, this novel approach allowed for the form to be sculpted organically in space. In a playful way *Unveil* brings awareness to the temporal things we often miss in the blink of an eye.

Project Reference

Regina Gust

Regina Gust Designs

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Scottsdale Slabs

2020 (scheduled completion date)

Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd. | Scottsdale, AZ

Tinted concrete, reclaimed glass, Corten steel

Installation spans entire intersection; 5 monoliths 1.5' x 5' x 10-15' high each

This artwork will incorporate the specific natural elements of the region (earth, vegetation, mountains, water, sky) by taking a record of the desert floor. The organic underside of each casting will pull surface material from the terrain, including sand, small rocks, sticks, desert scrub brush, etc. while the refined top side of the casting will be a smooth finish of bright blue-stained concrete with a subtle sparkle. Evoking the look of dried cholla cactus skeletons, the refined side will feature a pattern of voids, filled with reclaimed green glass. Conversely, the blue sparkly faces will enhance the implied movement throughout each slab, as well as relating back to the important role of water in the desert. Each slab will be finished with Corten-wrapped edges that incorporate a silhouette of the McDowell range, visible in the distance at the outskirts of Scottsdale.

Project Reference

Kevin Vaughan- Brubaker

Scottsdale Public Art

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