



Short Biography Ralfonso (Ralf Gschwend) Kinetic, Light & Interactive Sculptures for Public Places

Ralfonso (Ralf Gschwend): Designer of environmentally interactive, kinetic and light sculptures (sculptures that interact with the environment such as wind, water, etc.) since 1980. Since 1999 he specializes in the design and execution of large to monumental kinetic and light sculptures for public places from his studios in West Palm Beach, Florida, USA and Geneva, Switzerland.

His passion in life is Kinetic Art for Public Places. With this passion, as president from its inception, he co-founded the Kinetic Art Organization (KAO) www.kinetic-art.org in 2001 with a German and a US fellow Kinetic Artist. Now, with more than 1,000 members in over 60 Countries around the world, KAO has become the largest kinetic art organization in the world.

All Ralfonso kinetic sculptures move, as they interact with water, wind, electricity, as well as with the natural environment and most importantly, the viewer.

Sculpture designs range in size from 2ft. to 60ft. Sculptures have been exhibited or permanently installed in **Switzerland, Netherlands, Russia, China, Germany, Hong Kong, United Arab Emirates, France and the USA.**

Recent Exhibitions: "Art in Motion", Netherlands; "Ralfonso Kinetic Art", St. Petersburg, Russia; "MomentuM", Grounds for Sculpture in New Jersey, USA; "The Art and Science Biennale" both in Beijing and Shanghai, "Finalist of the Cultural Olympics", the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland; "Sculpture in Motion", Atlanta, USA; Changchun International Sculpture Conference, China; Inaugural Exhibition at Cuadro Gallery in Dubai, UAE, Inaugural Exhibition at "Homo Ludens" exhibition, the Netherlands; "Sculpture on the Green" Cashier, NC, USA; Inaugural Exhibition at the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics at Stony Brook University, New York; "Mouvements et Lumières" at the Frank Popper Center, Marcigny, France; Florida State University; Museum of Contemporary Art MoCA, Beijing, China, Montreux, Switzerland, etc.

RALFONSO - SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS - LAST 10 YEARS:

- August 2004** One month Ralfonso kinetic sculpture solo exhibition at the Grand Hotel Kempinski & purchase by RBI Corp. Permanent installation of the 16.5ft (5m) Moving on UP #1 in front of the New Star building in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- September 2004** KAO group exhibition at the Library of the Academy of Science, Beijing, China.
- March 2005** Royal Caribbean Cruise Line commission for the 40ft by 20ft, 160 disc, suspended mobile "ExoCentric Spirits #1".
- May 2005** 1st Prize Winner of USD 425,000 BAP International Sculpture Competition for Opera.
- April 2006** Recipient of the Outstanding Award and Money Prize in the International Sculpture Competition by the City of Beijing.
- May 2006** 3 Ralfonso Sculptures at Kinetic Art Group Exhibition "Momentum" at Grounds for Sculpture, New Jersey, USA.
- September 2006** Keynote speaker at the "Public Art for the 2008 Olympics" conference & CAFA & Tsinghua University, Beijing.
- November 2006** Exhibition of AD INFINITUM at the 2nd Art & Science Biennale the Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.
- November 2006** French fine cognac company Martell (Pernod Ricard) licenses Ralfonso G-Ring Design for 5,000 small sculptures
- December 2006** MTR Corporation HK - Commission for a 50ft by 33ft (15m by 10m) ExoCentric Spirit #2 suspended mobile for the central lobby atrium of the new Elements Mall in Hong Kong.
- March 2007** City of Zhengzhou, China commissions and licenses a 23ft (7m) Ralfonso AD INFINITUM sculpture design.
- May 2007** Group Exhibition and Prize Winner at the Art & Science Biennale, Shanghai, China.
- July 2007** Recipient of the second Honor Award in the "Beauty of Harmony" Competition for MOVING ON UP - by the National Guiding Committee for Public Sculpture, P.R. China.
- October 2007** Selected by the Committee of "Art & Dream for the Beijing Olympics" as one of 19 invited international Artists to create a 10m/33ft (with base) kinetic sculpture called "Dance with the Wind" for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Permanently installed next to the Swimming Pavilion.
- May 2008** "Dance with the Wind" at 6 months "Sculpture in Motion" Exhibition Botanical Garden, Atlanta, USA.
- June 2008** Olympic Bronze Prize Winner in the 2008 Olympic Landscape Sculpture Competition, selected from over 2,400 submissions from 82 Countries by the Chinese Olympic Art Committee for the Olympic Games 2008 in Beijing for OLYMPIAD - 1 year exhibitions through 12 Cities in China, California, the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Italy, etc.
- August 2008** China Sculpture Institute elects Ralfonso and Dennis Oppenheim as Advisor to CSI.
- September 2008** Certificate and Award at Changchun International Sculpture Conference, China.
- November 2008** Three Ralfonso 3m/10ft kinetic sculptures at inaugural 1 year Cuadro Gallery exhibition, Dubai, UAE.
- January 2009** ExoCentric Spirits #3 Commission for central lobby of new Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh, USA
- October 2009** Ex-Strata #1 (5m/16.5ft) and Tubus #1 (15m/50ft) 1 year "Homo Ludens" exhibition in the Netherlands.
- May 2010** "Sabrina" Sculpture (40cm/1.1ft) auction by Christie's Asia Chairman Francois Curiel in Geneva for Sfr. 24,000.
- May 2010** 6 months Exhibition of "Dance with the Wind" (3m/10ft) at "Sculpture on the Green" Cashier, NC. USA.
- November 2010** Commission & exhibition of EX STRATA#2 (6m/20ft) for the 100 Year Celebration of Tsinghua University, Beijing.
- December 2010** Commission & exhibition of BIRD OF PARADISE (6m/20ft) at the MTL International Exhibition in Shenzhen.
- March 2011** 4 Ralfonso sculpture inaugural exhibition at the Simons Center for Geometry & Physics at Stony Brook University, NY.
- September 2011** Commission of UNION #1 (6m/20ft) for the permanent Changchun Int'l Sculpture Park, China collection.
- April 2012** Finalist with Honorarium for the \$150,000 College of Denver, USA "Auraria Center" commission.
- April 2012** Commission of MAGIC TREE (6m/20ft) for the "Wuhu Liu Kaiqu" Int'l Sculpture Park, China collection.
- July 2012** Commission of CUBE TOWER (8m/26ft) for the permanent Changchun Int'l Sculpture Park, China collection.
- Nov. 2012** "Dance with the Wind" Sculpture (40cm/1.1ft) auction by Christie's Asia Chairman Francois Curiel in Geneva.
- Feb. 2013** Commission of UNION #2 Sculpture Group (7.6m/25ft) for the permanent City of Orlando, Florida collection.
- Feb. 2013** 4 months at the Int'l Kinetic Art Exhibition & Keynote Speaker - Boynton Beach, Florida, USA.
- June 2013** 6 months at the Int'l Kinetic Art Exhibition "Mouvements et Lumières" at the Frank Popper Center, France.
- August 2013** 2nd place with Honorarium for the \$200,000 new "Kaohsiung World Trade Center", Taiwan commission.
- August 2013** Winner of the TOP 100 CoD+A International Public Sculpture Award for CUBE TOWER, Changchun, China.
- September 2013** 2nd place with Honorarium for the \$500,000 new "Conoco Univ. of Alaska", Alaska commission.
- November 2013** 1 months as Teacher of the first ever Kinetic Art Course in China - Tsinghua University, Beijing China.
- February 2014** New CUBE TOWER Commission & Prize during the 15th Changchun International Sculpture Park Competition.
- April 2014** MAGIC TREE Kinetic Sculpture in Wuhu Sculpture Park featured on Earth Day by CoD+A.
- September 2014** Unveiling of EX STRATA#3 (8.5m/28ft w. base) for the NHL University, Netherlands permanent collection.
- September 2014** KARO at the "Critical Connection" Exhibition at Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA), Beijing, China.
- November 2014** Unveiling of UNION #3 (10m/33ft) for the City of Qingdao Sculpture Park, China permanent collection.
- January 2015** CNN INTERNATIONAL airs "ART OF MOVEMENT" documentary about Ralfonso's sculptures around the world.
- Feb. 2015** "TWIST" 4 months at the Int'l Kinetic Art Exhibition & Keynote Speaker - Boynton Beach, Florida, USA.
- August 2015** Commission of EX STRATA#4 (4m/15ft) for the Changbai Mountain Sculpture Park, China permanent collection.
- December 2015** Acquisition for the permanent collection of "Dance with the Wind" by the Beijing Museum of Contemporary Art.
- February 2016** FORBES Magazine online article re. Ralfonso's new small kinetic works for private homes, galleries & museums.
- February 2016** Ralfonso Exhibition and Keynote speaker at THE ART OF SUSTAINABILITY in Brevard County, USA.
- March 2016** SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL successfully auctions the first Ralfonso kinetic work in New York.
- April 2016** Commission of FLAMENCO #1 (2.5m/8ft) permanently installed on the Singer Island Beach, USA.
- September 2016** Ralfonso receives Top British Architecture Award for BEST ENVIRONMENTALLY INTERACTIVE SCULPTURES.
- November 2016** Ralfonso Group Exhibition at the Montreux Music & Convention Center - Miles Davis Hall.
- January 2017** Putian International Sculpture "Master Sculpture" Award & Commission of the 4m/14ft SPHERICAL CHI
- February 2017** Ningbo Hangzhou Bay Int'l Sculpture Grand Prix Silver Award & Commission of the 12m/42ft FAMILY UNION
- April 2017** Changchun City 2017 Int'l Sculpture Competition Award & Commission of the 7m/23ft LOVING HEART

International Press Coverage (partial list):

PRINT: International Library of Photography Books, Art International Catalog, Architectural Record Magazine, American Style Magazine, Aargauer Zeitung (CH), NeoCity Architecture Magazine (Russia), Guild Book, Russian National TV, Public Art Review, International Sculpture Center Photo Gallery, Cosmopolitan Magazine, Aeroflot Inflight Magazine, Elle Magazine, 100% RED, Interior and Design, World and Home, Construction Weekly, Real Estate and Construction, Pravda, St. Petersburg monthly, Palm Beach Post, American Airline Magazine, Palm Beach Daily "Shiny" Sheet, Sun Sentinel Miami, Florida Wise Magazine, Star Daily (China), China-JSB, Sculpture Magazine-China, American Art Collector, IN Magazine (Hong Kong), 24 Hours – Sculpture Network – Europe – July & August 2008 Edition, HINGE Architecture Magazine – Hong Kong, Perspective Plus Architecture – Hong Kong 2008 & 2009, Palm Beach Post, Palm Beach Illustrated, Palm Beach Society Magazine, Art of the Times, ART NOW Online, The Gulf Today, Urban Art China, China Sculpture Magazine, World Art China, Hong Kong Post Magazine, TAN – The Art Newspaper – China #190 and #193, Le Journal, United Nations Magazine - September 2013, Technogaia Magazine, Sculptures Pacific Magazine, Florida Today, Wide Walls, Art Versed, FORBES INTERNATIONAL, CNN INTERNATIONAL, etc.

TV: Russian National TV - [TV-tsentr](#) and [TVC](#), USA - Channel 5, 17, 25, Dubai TV and CNN INTERNATIONAL January 2015 - <http://www.cnn.com/videos/tv/2015/01/28/spc-art-movement-wind-sculptures.cnn> .

Art Related Memberships (partial list):

- Member of the German Press Association, #17221
- Member of the International Press Association
- Member of Americans for the Arts, (AFTA), USA
- Member of French Union of Sculptors - Syndicat National des Sculpteurs et Plasticiens, France
- Member of Art & Science Collaborations, Inc. (ASCI)
- Colleague (ret.) of the National Sculpture Society, (NSS), USA
- Professional Circle Member of the Sculpture Network-Europe
- Co-Founder and Ex-Member of the Board (ret.) of the European Kinetic Art Society, Kineticus, www.kineticus.com, Germany
- Co-Founder and President of the international Kinetic Art Organization (KAO) www.kinetic-art.org, USA. With members in over 60 Countries, now the largest kinetic art organization in the world.
- Co-Founder and Ex-Co-Chairman (ret.) of the annual EXPOSURE Art Festival W. Palm Beach, Florida
- Co-Founder of SwissArtMiami, (ret.)
- Manager USA for AIESM, (ret.) – International Association of Monumental Sculpture Events
- Official Advisor to the China Sculpture Institute, Beijing, China.
- Member of the “Centre d’art Contemporain Frank Popper”, France
- Board member and Trustee of the ISC (2010-2013) – International Sculpture Center and publisher of Sculpture magazine.
- Board member of the Beijing Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA-Beijing)
- Academic Advisor and Committee Member at YOUTH +, Beijing China.

THE END

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