About the Artist:

David C. Roy

Mechanics and motion have always fascinated me. During college I studied physics, engineering and chemistry to further my understanding of how things worked. I graduated with a degree in physics from Boston University in 1974. This intuitive understanding of motion and mechanics combined with the artistic influences of my wife, Marji, led me to the creation of kinetic sculptures. In 1975 we started "Wood That Works" and I became a full time sculptor. Since then I have designed and handcrafted over 100 different limited edition and one-of-a-kind kinetic sculptures. I have exhibited in numerous juried, invitational and group events. My work is displayed in galleries and private collections around the world. I currently maintain a studio in rural northeastern Connecticut.

Wood that Works

Sky Dance • Directions

Kinetic Sculpture by David C. Roy

To the Owner...

Hello,

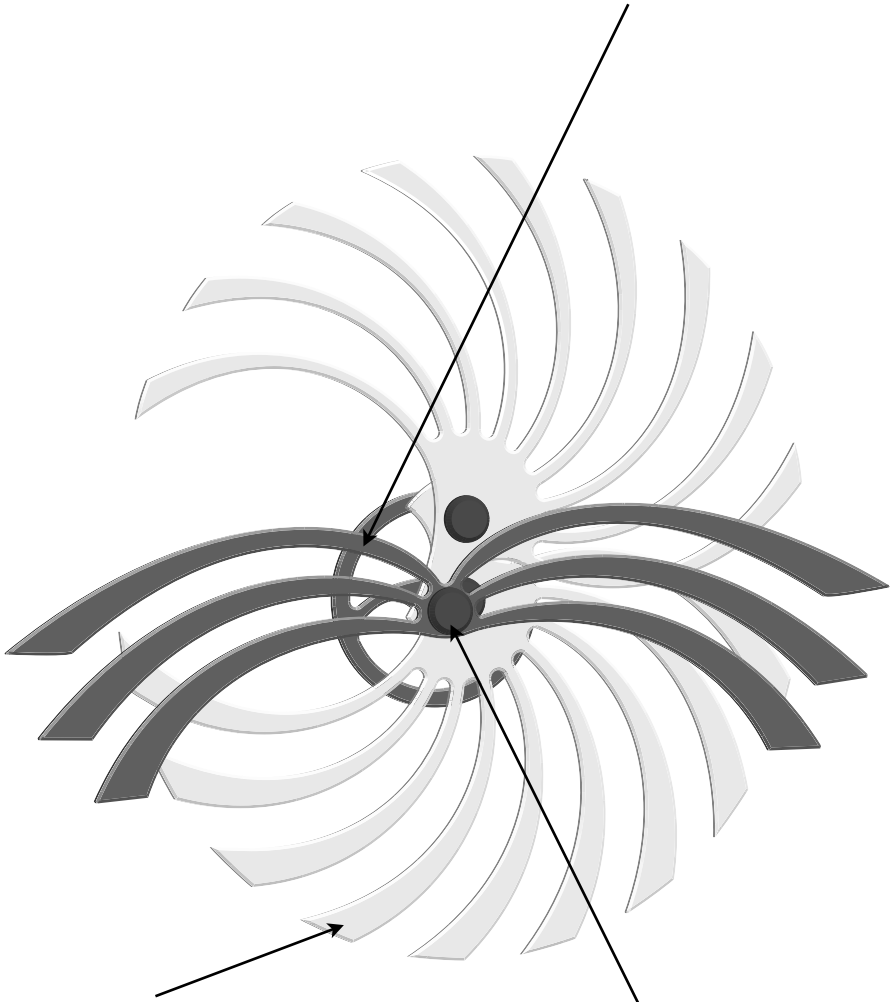
Welcome to the world of Wood That Works. This Sky Dance is number _____ out of a possible 150 pieces. It was made by me during the month of _____ in 2010. I build, test and pack each sculpture myself, doing 6-12 pieces of an edition per month. It takes several years for me to complete an edition and some are never finished as I move on to new designs. Designing and building kinetic sculptures like Sky Dance has been my full time occupation for more than 30 years. I hope Sky Dance brings you and other viewers as much enjoyment as I've found in making it.

Sky Dance has been mounted on a wall in my shop and running for at least 2 complete windings (several hours) before I pack it. I make every effort in design, construction and packing to make sure the piece will perform problem free for years to come. I use only the finest materials.

It leaves me happy and satisfied to find that my work has made it's way into new lives. I hope it brings you years of enjoyment.

David C. Roy

To wind the sculpture hold the bird form near the center and rotate the front patterning wheel clockwise while holding the back patterning wheel fixed with the other hand. The bird form does not rotate but acts as a crank handle.



Lightly hold the back wheel here with your other hand while winding.

Do not grasp this knob while winding.

Directions:

To Wind

- Hold the back wheel lightly in one hand. Grasp the bird form near its center. Do not grasp the knob. Rotate the front patterning wheel 21 turns in a clockwise direction using the bird form as crank handle. That is keep the bird horizontal while you rotate the front patterning wheel. Release the back wheel when you stop winding the front wheel.
- Pay close attention to the top of the light colored wood spool directly behind the fan shaped wheel. Stop winding as soon as you see the red tape appear on the metal band. This is placed about 1 turn from the end. *Winding beyond this point may damage the sculpture.*

CAUTION: It is very easy to over wind this sculpture and break the spring. Make sure you turn the front wheel slowly and stop its motion before you reach the tape at the end of the spring.

To Start

- If Sky Dance doesn't start moving on its own when you finish winding turn the front, light-colored wheel clockwise.

About Sky Dance:

The idea for Sky Dance came to me when I had both the Focus and Quest sculptures on the testing wall at the same time. Could I make a random "floating" sculpture with a simple central mechanism like the one I had developed for Focus? What would the motion be like?

A year and several prototypes later the result is Sky Dance. I'm very pleased with this sculpture. It has random, straight line and floating motion as well as some interesting overlapping optical patterns.

Sky Dance is a piece the must be seen in action to be fully appreciated.

Specifications:

Limited Edition of 150
Size: 37"h x 55"w x 8"d
Power Source: negator spring
Approximate Run Time: 2.5 hours
Materials: hardwood plywood, bearings, string

Directions:

To Mount on Wall:

- Sky Dance does not need a template for wall mounting. The orientation of the circular base is not important.
- From the center of the sculpture base clearance of 18.5 inches up and down and 27.5 inches left and right is needed to allow for the full motion of the sculpture.
- Hold the sculpture in the desired location against the wall.
- Place a sharp instrument through the screw holes, marking their positions on the wall.
- Drill pilot holes. If the wall is sheetrock or plaster use plastic anchors.
- Screw the sculpture to the wall.