About the Artist:

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 200 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.
To the Owner...

Hello,

Welcome to the world of Wood That Works. This Dance is number _____ out of a possible 36 pieces. It was made by me during the month of _______ in 2019. 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 Dance has been my full time occupation for more than 40 years. I hope Dance brings you and other viewers as much enjoyment as I’ve found in making it.

Dance has been mounted on a wall in my shop and running for at least 2 complete windings (many 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. Of course, problems can still occur no matter how hard I try to prevent them. My answer to this is a warranty to the original owner against defects in materials and workmanship for three years. See the guarantee section of this booklet for details.

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

David C. Roy
About Dance:

The interaction of two “bird” forms that are both linked and independent has fascinated me for years. I’ve written about the technical aspects of similar sculptural studies in pages for my sculptures Frolic and Gemini. The mechanism controlling “Dance” is a further refinement of these so I thought for the comments on this new sculpture I’d explore a little further afield.

A sculpture (or any artwork) can be a gateway to daydreams and imagination. With “Dance” the journey seems to start the same each time. The semi-abstract bird forms become birds gliding and frolicking in warm summer breezes. As I continue to observe the motion, my imagination takes hold. I can see the motion as a visualization of the design process I often follow. The birds represent different design ideas I’ve been playing with. Sometimes they mesh and a problem is solved or a new idea hatches but often they just continue chasing each other and playing. I love creating because many times it’s just a daydream.

The thoughts can also turn more personal, reminding me of friends and loved ones who come and go but always remain connected, performing life’s dance. Marji and I began 50 years ago with a surprise kiss followed by a spinning dance, twirling independently but always staying connected. The connections grew stronger and the dance continues. I wonder if there is a new sculpture to be created to include children and grandchildren. Probably too complex but fun to daydream about.

Dance Specifications:

- Limited Edition of 36
- Size: 57”h x 49”w x 10.5”d
- Power Source: negator spring
- Approximate Run Time: 15 hours
- Materials: hardwood plywood, bearings, string
- Dance ©2019

Before Moving Sculpture:

- We recommend you save the box your sculpture came in.
- Make sure the sculpture is completely unwound.
- Remove the upper motion assembly before taking the sculpture off the wall in a reverse procedure to the installation. Unscrew the knob on the center shaft and slide it off the shaft. Return knob to the shaft.
- Unhook the long belt and remove it.
- Apply tape to the locations noted in the drawing to the right.
- Never lay the sculpture on a horizontal surface for a long period of time without supporting the patterning wheels. I use crumpled newspaper to support and separate the wheels when packing the sculpture.

Guarantee:

- My kinetic sculptures are guaranteed to the original owner for a period of three years. All warranties expire with transfer of ownership from the original owner. Damage of the sculpture from exposure to extremes of high or low humidity, or to adverse hot or cold temperatures, or damage caused by normal wear and tear, accidents, misuse, or modification will not be covered by the warranty. Shipping and insurance to and from Wood That Works is the responsibility of the purchaser.

- I will charge a repair fee if the sculpture was damaged by misuse or needs refurbishment from normal wear and tear.
Directions:

To Mount on Wall:
- DO NOT remove the tape holding the belt, small pulley and pawl in place.
- Hold the lower template in the desired location against the wall. The diagram above shows how the piece fits in relation to the template and required clearances are noted. Level the bottom edge.
- Secure it with 2 screws in the marked holes.
- Align upper template with marks.
- Place a sharp instrument through the screw holes, marking their positions on the wall.
- Remove templates.

16”
2.5”
19”

Upper mechanism
Motion Assembly
“S” Wheel
Connecting Belt
Winding Wheel (right)
Insert pointer finger here to wind.

Winding Wheel (left)
Insert pointer finger here to wind.

Lower mechanism
Subsequent windings:

• Turn each winding wheel clockwise 22 turns if completely unwound. Less if not.
• You should hear a clicking sound as you wind the sculpture. When you finish winding make sure the ratchet is engaged before releasing the winding wheel.
• Pay close attention to the top of the light colored wood spool directly behind the winding wheel. Stop winding as soon as you see the red tape appear on the metal band. This is placed about 2 turns from the end. Winding beyond this point may damage the sculpture.

To Start

• Give the back “S” wheel of the motion assembly a gentle push to start it moving. You should hear a click when the mechanism engages. Do not set the “bird” pieces swinging. If you do, gently steady them.

To Stop:

• Slow the motion of the “S” wheel with your hand and let it come to rest.

Installation Directions (con’t):

• If the wall is sheetrock or plaster, drill pilot holes (1/8”) and use plastic anchors.
• Screw both the round top base and lower arc base to the wall in the corresponding holes.
• Thread the long spring belt through the center of the upper part of the sculpture. It should be positioned to rest inside the pulley slot.
• Bring this spring belt down and around the center wheel in the lower section and hook the two ends of the spring belt together.
Installation Directions (con’t):

- Install the motion center.
- Remove the knob from the upper base and slide the motion center onto the shaft.
- When you slide it on, know that the hub contains 2 bearings, one in the front and one in the back. It will slide easily when aligned. Don’t force it.
- Screw the cover knob in place. Do not over tighten. Just finger tighten. The motion center must be allowed to slide 1/16” of front to back motion along the axel. Over tightening will pinch the bearings together causing it to not operate.
- Note: There is no cover for the spring spools.

Directions:

- Remove the blue tape holding the pawls in place on the upper motion assembly.
- Remove the blue tape holding the lower belts in place.

To Wind: Important first time winding instructions:

- The first time you wind up this sculpture after unpacking requires special attention. Shipping may have caused parts to move unexpectedly.
- First look for obvious things that might have come out of alignment in shipping like belts out of pulleys.
- Only wind each spring TWO turns clockwise for the first run. Make sure the metal band is winding inside the larger spool walls. If it isn’t, shift it so that it does. It should be fine for all future windings. A short run will show you if parts slid out of alignment during shipping.
- If it doesn’t run as expected email David at david@woodthatworks.com.