

# FLIGHTS of JOY

New Creations by  
**MARK DAVIS**



PUCKER GALLERY  
BOSTON

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**M**ark Davis' new work is, as always, a revelation. Something new to say.

I have known Mark for 25 years, have often watched him in his studio, and recently sat down with him to talk about his career and the evolution of his work. He told me how his approach has shifted and how now his intention for each work is conceived as a whole, then fleshed out as he manipulates the tools and raw materials, channeling bursts of inspirations that evolve the piece throughout the process.

He talked about how people respond to the playfulness of his work, which even though they are forged in metal are free of constraint. He allows us to experience his intention, share his creative surge of ideas, and join in his sense of joy. Perry Price talked about how Mark has his own visual vocabulary, arranging shapes, colors, and forms that draw us in, flip on our imagination, engage our creativity, offer new possibilities. Through his work, we experience a sense of awe, are freed of our known experience, if only briefly

Mark reflected on his own curiosity, that he is always if sometimes unconsciously looking for inspiration and he often finds it in surprising environments. He paid homage to Calder, who "blew him away," and we discussed our shared adoration of Van Gogh, who wove color and form to offer an interpretation of an idea. We discussed the welcome advice of Bernie Pucker who when Mark was sharing his struggle with learning about color said, "do not learn, do not analyze, just use your instincts, do not hold back." This valuable encouragement led to Mark's own growing confidence.

In a philosophical moment, we uncovered that the art that moves us most is the one where the artist gives part of himself away. They demonstrate a combination of inspiration, discipline, command of materials and tools, and selflessness. They give birth to something then set it free. He agreed that this is his intention, catching himself saying "I do that."

My friend Mark is modest. My own take is that he combines a generosity of spirit with gratitude for a life that thrills him and a community that appreciates him.

— Rick Goode



*An idea that had been in my head for many years was the concept of a fully developed hanging mobile created as a standing object, not hanging from a ceiling. I made several attempts at this idea, but none seemed complete or fully developed. Eventually, I created a simple round base incorporating a long arm from which a hanging mobile is suspended so as to be seen from all sides as it turns. Being enjoyed in the round is one of the beauties of my hanging mobiles, and now I have a smaller version that can be placed on a pedestal or table but provide the same experience. I find it interesting to have a large round or oval piece in the middle of the suspended composition to divide the mobile into two sides on which compositions work together as it turns. I find the result to be simultaneously poetic and dynamic.*

**COVER:**

*Those Halcyon Memories*

Standing mobile in steel and aluminum with nylon cord

26 x 24 x 18"

MD849



*Other Worlds*

Standing mobile in aluminum and brass with steel wires and acrylic board, oil and acrylic colors  
20 x 24 x 18"  
MD889



*Simple Sequence*

Wall-mounted mobile in aluminum and acrylic board with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
23 x 42 x 12"  
MD915



*The Wilds of the Jungle*

Standing mobile in aluminum with steel wires, oil, acrylic colors and nylon cord  
26.75 x 22 x 25"

MD879

About two years ago, I decided to try a different approach to designing wall-mounted mobiles. For many years, I would draw or cut out a shape from paper, and once happy with it, cut it out of thin aluminum and shape it with hammers and forming stakes. Then I would let my creative mind come up with the next shape, and the next, arranging them as I went. As a departure, I decided to cut shapes from colored paper—I have a huge stash of scraps from collage projects—and arrange a group of colors and shapes against a black background, adjusting it until I was happy with the result. I then formed the pieces in metal to recreate the paper model. There is something extremely satisfying about this new process, and *The Obscured View* shows how it results in a strong, color-oriented composition. It is very exciting to me to see the possibilities when disparate colors and shapes find their way to a harmonious composition! It is a poetic vision of the art I love making so much.



*The Obscured View*  
 Wall-mounted mobile in aluminum and acrylic board with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
 38 x 24 x 13"  
 MD909



*Over the Moon*

Wall-mounted mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
 26 x 60 x 15"  
 MD919



*Flying in Circles*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
 17 x 15 x 12"  
 MD897



*A Lengthy Conversation*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
7.5 x 12 x 11"  
MD904



*Flying South*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
17 x 18 x 9"  
MD905





*An Unexpected Bloom*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires and nylon cord, oil and acrylic colors

22 x 17 x 12"

MD885



*Promenade*

Standing mobile with three spinning parts in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
16 x 19 x 25"  
MD881



*The Right Touch*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
17 x 6 x 7"  
MD896



*Western Pleasure*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
9.5 x 9.5 x 7.5"  
MD917



*First Blush*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
11 x 18 x 11"  
MD912



*Navigating the Terrain*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
14 x 13 x 8"  
MD883



*Cantilever*

Standing mobile in sterling silver  
7.5 x 5 x 4"  
MD886



*Grazing*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
10 x 10.5 x 3.5"  
MD918



*Diametric Growth*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires and nylon cord, oil and acrylic colors with 23 karat gold leaf  
26 x 33 x 31"  
MD911

*A few years ago, I began working on a collection of large wall-mounted pieces using strong colors. After creating that body of work, I sought a fresh break; I decided to make a standing mobile that had a strong sculptured base with a flurry of detailed activity hovering above it. It was so much looser than the wall-mounted work. I chose a bold shape for the base, but gave it detail and added gold leaf to the inside to provide lightness. Then, I created two small simple mobiles as a nod to Calder. I liked the idea of having them spread beyond the sides of the whole composition, creating a spray of color and line from each side of the composition. I completed the upper moving section with a few smaller, bolder shapes as an anchor and counterpoint to the base. The colors were added last, and I changed them quite a bit until I achieved a color combination that evoked earth and sky. The effect that created was very fine and delicate and produced the sense of wonder that I strive for in my work.*



*Pizzicato*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
10 x 12 x 7"  
MD871



*Rich Tapestry*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
8 x 10 x 6"  
MD856



*Perrito*  
 Standing mobile in brass and steel, oil and acrylic colors  
 7 x 11 x 6"  
 MD884



*A Walk Along a Short Path*  
 Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
 10 x 9.5 x 5.5"  
 MD880



*Regal Bearing*

Standing mobile in brass and steel, oil and acrylic colors and 23 karat gold leaf  
4 x 4 x 4"  
MD878



*Inner Calm*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
4.5 x 5.5 x 4"  
MD867



*Traveling Carnival*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
17 x 16 x 15"  
MD864





*The Existence of Zen*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
11 x 20 x 12"  
MD910



*Emerging*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
6.5 x 9.5 x 7"  
MD913



*Perhaps A Thorny Disposition*  
 Standing mobile in sterling silver  
 7 x 8 x 7"  
 MD873



*The Developing World*  
 Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with nylon cord, oil color and 23 karat gold leaf  
 16 x 11 x 8"  
 MD851



*Arpeggio*  
 Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
 16 x 19 x 6"  
 MD876



*Odalisque*  
 Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
 7 x 4 x 4"  
 MD868



*Happy Days*  
 Standing mobile in brass and steel, oil and acrylic colors  
 4.5 x 7 x 5"  
 MD877



*Shimmering From Above*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires and nylon cord, oil color and 23 karat gold leaf  
17 x 12 x 11"  
MD852



*Short Flight*

Small standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
4.5 x 4.5 x 7"  
MD860



*Light Touch*

Standing mobile in brass and steel, oil and acrylic colors  
4.5 x 5 x 6"  
MD872



*Flourishing*  
 Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil paint and 23 karat gold leaf  
 11 x 9 x 3.5"  
 MD875



*A Unified Model of Specified Complexity*  
 Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires and nylon cord, oil color and 23 karat gold leaf  
 19 x 17 x 13"  
 MD850



*Grand Stature*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
8 x 5 x 7"  
MD861



*Alternative Natures*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
9 x 11 x 12"  
MD908



*Bird of Paradise*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
15 x 11 x 10"  
MD854



*Hedra Helix*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
15 x 10 x 7"  
MD891



*Contented*

Standing mobile in brass and steel, oil and acrylic colors  
3.5 x 3.5 x 5"  
MD874

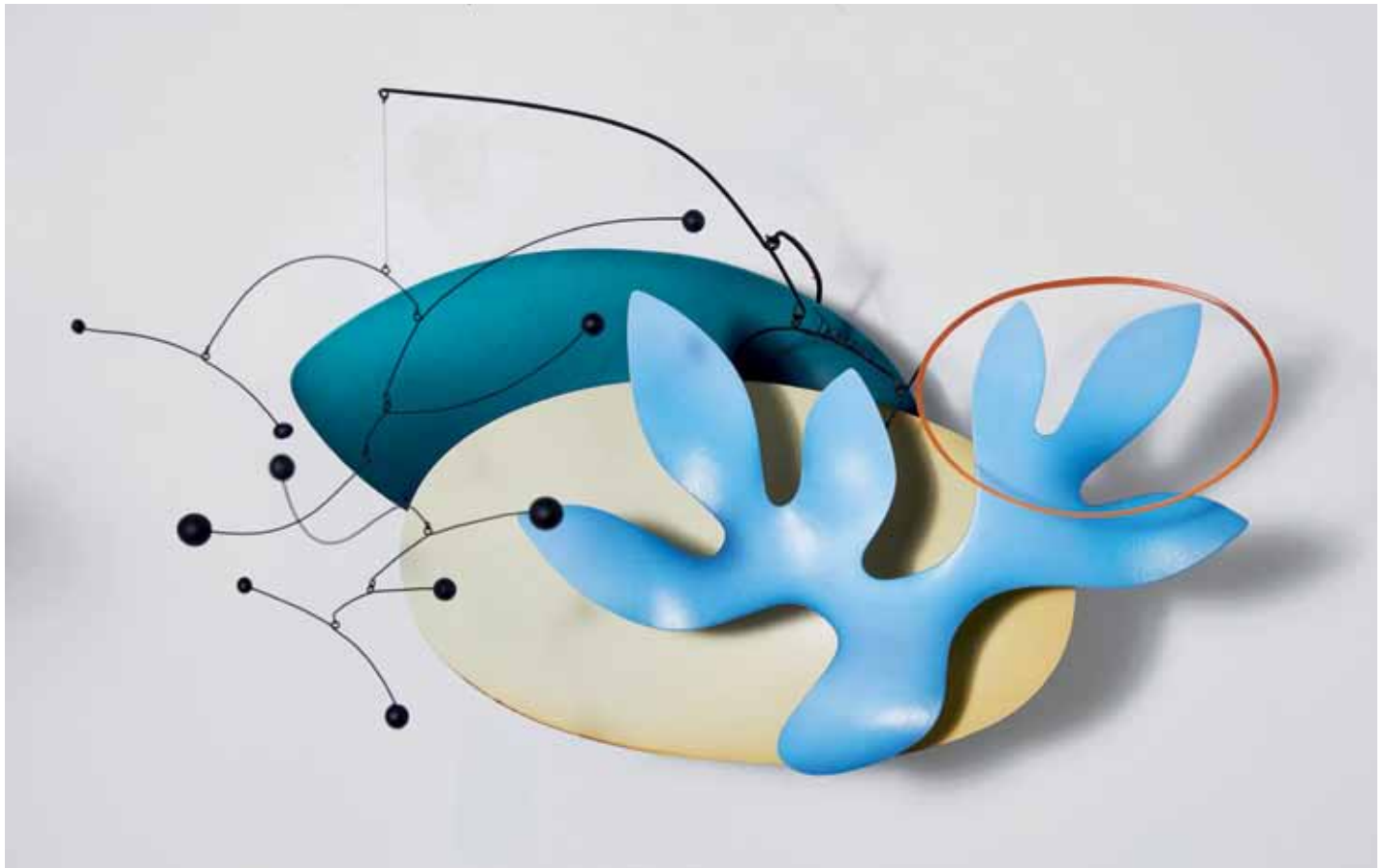


*The Basics*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
6 x 3 x 3.5"  
MD866



*Aristocratic*  
 Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic  
 colors, and 23 karat gold leaf  
 10 x 12 x 6"  
 MD902



*Juniper*  
 Wall-mounted mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
 13 x 23 x 18"  
 MD916





**M**ark Davis was born in New Haven, CT in 1954 and educated at Goddard College in Vermont. He began making jewelry in his teens and his dexterous metalwork is entirely self-taught. His initial forays into mobiles utilized the metals of his jewelry making: sterling silver, gold plating, and brass. The variety of styles and materials that Davis uses to build his mobiles has expanded dramatically over the years to create a complex and compelling body of work. In addition to moderate scale pieces of movement, with newfound color and grace, Davis also creates large scale public and private commission pieces. His works have been exhibited by Pucker Gallery since 1995 and are included in numerous private and public collections including: Andover Memorial Library, Andover, MA; the University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital; the Fuller Craft Museum, Brockton, MA; the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago; New England College, Henniker, NH; and the Rose Museum at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA.

**Credits:**

*Design:* Leslie Anne Feagley

*Editor:* Jeanne Koles

*Photography:* John Davenport

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*Fountain of Youth*

Standing mobile in painted brass and sterling silver, oil paint  
10 x 10 x 8"  
MD857



*Traveling Carnival*

Standing mobile in brass and aluminum with steel wires, oil and acrylic colors  
7 x 9 x 6"  
MD914

# FLIGHTS of JOY

New Creations by **MARK DAVIS**

Dates:

15 October through 27 November 2022

Public Opening Reception:

Saturday 15 October 2022 | 3:00 to 6:00 PM | The artist will be present.

Online Events:

Please visit [www.puckergallery.com](http://www.puckergallery.com) for a list of virtual gatherings and events accompanying *Flights of Joy*.



*Guarding the Queen*

Wall-mounted mobile in aluminum with steel wires, oil paint and 23 karat gold leaf  
16 x 33 x 13"  
MD847

**PUCKER**

ESTABLISHED 1967 BOSTON

**GALLERY**

Pucker Gallery

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Gallery Hours:

Monday through Saturday

10:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 PM

We are open to all and taking the necessary precautions for visitor and staff safety. We welcome appointments to maximize visitor experience.

Pucker Gallery is a member of the Boston Art Dealers Association and the New England Appraisers Association.

Please visit [www.puckergallery.com](http://www.puckergallery.com) to view the full catalogue for this exhibition, which includes additional work by the artist.