

Drunkin Kung Fu

By Thomas Ramey

My sculpture for Buffalo Creek is titled, "Drunkin Kung Fu". Most of my work is abstract with figurative roots. I had been working on this design for a couple years. It started life as what we call a "drop" or a "remnant" from another laser cutting project. I did two spikes that hung from thin cables. The more I worked with them the more they felt like figurative pieces. I use shadows in my work when I can. Mainly to photograph the work. The two spikes started telling me a story about a couple that were in a stand off. Not speaking or apologizing because their pride was too strong or stubborn to just say I'm sorry. Willing to throw it all away over selfish pride. The shadows looked like they were embracing, wanting to hold each other. As if deep inside there was still the longing to be together.

Most of my ideas start from watching the behavior of people. After that piece was finished I wanted to use the shape again. But this time have more fun with it. I use 3d rendering programs a lot to move pieces around and try out different configurations. I kept working with the spike design. Finally stacking them in what felt like an uneasy balancing act. Once I stopped and looked at the layout, it still seemed figurative, but it reminded me of an old kung fu movie. All the people running around and kicking each other. Lol With badly overdubbed English translations. I have a friend who's in a fusion style free form band called "Drunkin Kung Fu".

Every time I looked at the sculpture I just smiled and thought, "Drunkin King Fu". Lol I couldn't stop seeing these three old kung fu warriors running around like a Benny Hill skit kicking each other. The spike points are the feet. The bigger sections are the heads. I originally pitched the design to a public art project and was told it was too dangerous to have in public because of the sharp points. When I visited Buffalo Creek I thought, this is the place a sculpture like that could be installed in. I was just hoping everyone there would agree. Now Buffalo Creek has a scene from a 70's kung fu movie in the form of a 12' tall 1500 lbs stainless steel sculpture and I couldn't be happier about it.