CODAmagazine: Transformative Walls II

Wall art and more: design + art projects which construct, divide, enhance, and adorn the walls of our built habitats.

By CODAworx
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Overview
After nearly seven years of design, fabrication, and selection committees, Tim Bavington’s new work, ”Louie Louie” (2013) debuted at the Edith Green/Wendell Wyatt Federal Building in Portland (OR) Thursday, May 30th, 2013. Marking the second three-dimensional work Bavington has ever created, “Louie Louie” is made entirely of water jet cut cast acrylic; transforming his traditionally two-dimensional painting practice into translucent sculptural form. This work measures approximately 94 x 240 inches.

Goals
The colorful piece depicts the sound waves that make up the 80 bars of the song originally recorded in Portland by The Kingsmen and Paul Revere and the Raiders. This work went through several voting committees in order to be deemed reflective of the overall goals and aesthetics of the building. Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the modernization of the 35-year old building is designed to achieve LEED Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building.
Council for its use of cutting-edge sustainable design and technology. As part of its re-design and modernization, the building’s art committee felt Bavington’s work would perfectly compliment the contemporary aesthetic and concept behind the venue’s interest in technology. Furthermore, the light-interactive quality of the piece created an atmosphere throughout the lobby that transformed the entire space into an artistic work of art - with Bavington's work at the core.

Process

Bavington was approached by the GSA’s art committee to pull together a proposal for this building, which was overseen by Moore Fine Arts. The architects of the space provided renderings of the site in which the piece would be installed, as well as their engineering and materials goals to make the entire building LEED certified - a caveat that the artist also needed to abide by. Moore Fine Art acted as project managers for the work, as well as a liaison between the artist and art committee in order to ensure a final product that met each party's vision.

Additional Info

Bavington's exhibition history and biography lent itself well to his ultimate selection: Tim Bavington (b. 1966, England). His work is included in the public collections of Fredrick R. Weisman Collection (CA), Honolulu Art Museum (HI), Albright-Knox Art Gallery (NY), Creative Artists Agency (CA), Joslyn Art Museum (NE), Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (CA), Portland Art Museum (OR), United Talent Agency (CA), Vivendi Universal (CA), Palm Springs Art Museum (CA), Denver Art Museum (CO), The Museum of Modern Art (NY), Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University (UT) and the McNay Art Museum (TX).