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Art Appreciation from the Land, Sea and Air

By : Daniel Heath



Unique. One-of-a-kind. Unusual. These are adjectives that perfectly describe Key West and the manner in which the southernmost city celebrates art. Normally, when one mentions a sculpture exhibit, you visualize a vast museum hall with a bit of a musty smell; the reverent silence broken only by the steady click-click of shoes as viewers march past a piece, dutifully stopping for a quick and knowing nod, then marching on to the next piece. Not so in Key West.

Sculpture Key West is an annual exhibition of contemporary outdoor sculpture set in Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park, a Civil War-era fort that's surrounded by a moat, the best beaches in Key West, and both the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. From its beginning in 1995 under the guidance of park employee and sculptor Jim Racchi, Sculpture Key West has grown from a small local event to one that attracts nationally and internationally recognized artists, including Robert Chambers, John Martini, Gerhard Fousek, Susan Rodgers and many others. The uniqueness that the outdoor setting adds to the work of these artists can be appreciated by land, sea and air.

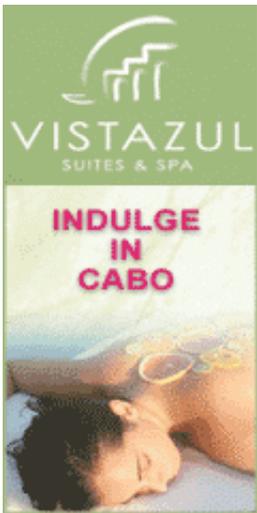
Following the show, artwork is often exhibited throughout the Key West area in "Pocket Parks" (defunct energy substations that have been turned into small parks) and at other locations. As Karley Klopfenstein, the associate director of Sculpture Key West puts it, "Our philosophy is that art isn't something you have to make plans to see or buy a ticket to visit. Instead, art belongs where you can bump into it, where it can unexpectedly alter your world."



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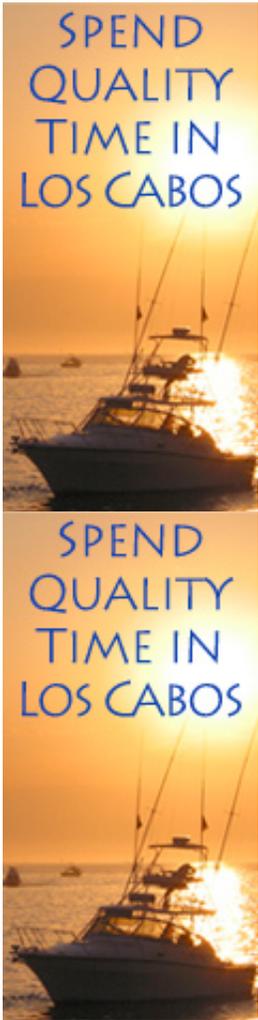


Bump into Klopfenstein's world of art by planning a visit to Sculpture Key West during its run, January 15-March 17, 2006, at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park. For more information on the exhibit and related special events, visit sculpturekeywest.com or call 305-295-3800.

Whether you experience these sculptures from your boat, an airplane or while walking through the park, it's a trip you'll long remember.



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