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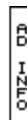
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Sculpture Key West

Key West, FL -

Fort Zachary Taylor, a Civil War-era fort on Key West's Atlantic Ocean shore, will become a unique sculpture gallery during Sculpture Key West, set for January 15-March 17, 2006 in the island city. The exhibit of large-scale contemporary sculpture will be displayed against the background of the fort and the Atlantic-front state park that surrounds it.



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More than 80 pieces in steel, stone, wood, marble and other materials are slated for display, created by 68 artists from the United States and other countries including Argentina, Austria, Cuba, the Czech Republic and Germany.

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Sculpture Key West

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Participating artists have previously included leaders in the national and international sculpture world such as Rebecca Graves, Robert Hickman, Kristy Knight and Susan Rodgers. Former participant Robert Chambers was the cover artist for the March 2004 issue of "Sculpture Magazine," while New Yorker Luisa Caldwell was a recipient of the International Sculpture Center Artist Grant. The work of emerging sculptors is featured as well.

Sculptures are placed inside and outside the fort, in its surrounding moat, in the park's waterfront field, along the shoreline and even in the water. Organizers encourage site-specific pieces that both enhance and draw meaning from their setting, resulting in a unique confluence of contemporary art and historic environment.

Artwork displayed in the 2005 exhibition included Hickman's "Singing Lighthouse," a nine-foot beacon with an inspirational musical component; Knight's "Beach Ball," a 20-foot ball floating in the fort's moat; and "Abandoned" by Anja Marais and Rudi Repining, a poignant display depicting pieces of a carousel and five horses.

Sculptures are designed specifically to be visible from air and sea as well as land, providing viewing opportunities for arriving and departing airline and cruise ship passengers and boaters in Key West waters, as well as visitors to the park and its popular beach.

The grand opening reception for the [Sculpture Key West](#) exhibition is scheduled for January 16, at the park. Many of the presenting artists will be on hand during the reception, and artist-led tours will be offered hourly. The following day, selected maquettes and drawings from the 2006 show will be auctioned at an invitation-only event at the fort.

Other highlights of the exhibition include a sailing excursion with the artists planned for January 13, 2006 Schooner Liberty Artist Sail, aboard the 80-foot Schooner Liberty. Launched in 1993, the Liberty is a replica of schooners dating from the 1800s that were employed as cargo-carrying ships and used by New England fishermen.

In addition, sculpture aficionados are invited to attend Art Lights Fort Taylor, an after-dark fund-raising gala that showcases the sculptures dramatically illuminated against the nighttime sea and sky. During the gala, planned for February 19, 2006 Art Lights Fort Taylor, attendees can view the artistry from vantage points including the second level of the historic fort. The fund-raiser will also feature hors d'oeuvres and desserts, as well as live entertainment and performance art.

The Sculpture Key West exhibit can be viewed from 8 am to sunset daily at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park, accessible from an entrance on Southard Street past Thomas Street. Daily park entrance fees, which include a pass allowing visitors to leave and return, are \$1.50 per person on foot or bike, \$3.50 for a motorized vehicle and one person, \$6 for a vehicle and two people and 50 cents for each additional passenger. Viewing of the exhibition is free.

For information about Sculpture Key West, and for ticket prices for its associated special events, call 305-295-3800, info@sculpturekeywest.com.

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