Welcome!

The Winter Park Public Art Advisory Board is proud to display six large-scale sculptures by David Hayes (1931-2013). His polychrome abstract sculptures reference nature, and are presented to ignite the imagination with their color and sense of movement, even as they remain stationary.

The sculptor, like so many artists, wanted his viewers to come to their own interpretations of his work. As Hayes was quoted as saying, “The perennial question is: What’s it supposed to be? And I always answer: It’s whatever you interpret it to be...it’s based on imagination – my imagination and the viewer’s imagination.”

Looking closely, viewers may see allusions to leaves or trees, but the ironical juxtaposition of steel and natural forms proves provocative. Another contradictory aspect is that even though nature is the inspiration, primary colors do not appear in nature as they do in the sculptures. These forms are bright and bold to provide visual delight.

In 1953, Hayes received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. In 1955, he received a Master of Fine Arts degree from Indiana University, Bloomington, where he studied with David Smith. Hayes had some 400 exhibitions and is included in over 100 institutional collections, including those of the Museum of Modern Art and Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Wave
What color is water? Has it ever seemed orange or yellow? What time of day did this happen? What color is it when it breaks over your head? How does it feel? It’s exciting, isn’t it?

Grasshopper
What color is a grasshopper? How does it camouflage itself? Why? How does it move? It hops of course! What kind of legs are required for hopping? Look quickly – this grasshopper might just hop away!

Hanging Sculpture #40
Look up in the tree! There’s a surprise. No, it’s not Spiderman – it’s a black star! Or is it the sun? Or a flower? Why did the sculptor paint it black? Why did he hang it in a tree? What impact will the wind have on it? The fun is that you get to imagine and decide.

Gladiator
What’s a gladiator? The word gladiator comes from gladius or sword, so a gladiator is a “swordman.” He was an armed combatant in ancient Rome. Does this looks like a swordsman? Or does it look like the twirl of his garments swinging while he defends himself? Does it look like action frozen in time? What does it look like to you?

Seal
Have you ever visited a circus or gone to Sea World®? Have you ever seen a real seal? What color is a seal? Is its skin shiny or dull? In a circus or amusement park seals often perform. What is this seal doing? What is balancing on his nose?

Cygne
Cygne is a French word for a type of water bird that lives on Lake Eola in Orlando! These birds are closely related to geese. They have long necks and glide through the water gracefully. Can you guess what our cygnet is? (A swan!)