

Press Release

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SCOTT WHITE CONTEMPORARY ART presents

KEN BORTOLAZZO

May 8 – July 3, 2009

(San Diego, California) - For Immediate Release

EVENT SUMMARY:

Scott White Contemporary Art is pleased to present an exhibition of kinetic steel sculptures and installation by Ken Bortolazzo. The exhibition will open on Friday, May 8, 2009, and will be available on view through Friday, July 3, 2009. The opening reception will take place on Friday, May 8, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. The artist Ken Bortolazzo will be in attendance. This event is free and open to the public.

EXHIBITION DESCRIPTION:

The exhibition will feature six wall sculptures, ten free-standing sculptures, as well as an interactive installation of bead chains measuring ten feet by ten feet. These new sculptures typify Bortolazzo's study of movement coupled with optical interactivity, which the artist has coined the descriptive term as *opti-kinetics*.

Ken Bortolazzo uses stainless steel as a medium to create his dynamic and striking sculptures. Each of his pieces convey movement and interactivity that can only be achieved by the mastery of technique, innovation and experience that Bortolazzo has mounted in his career of using this medium. The movement of his sculptures is placidly fluid, triggered by the slightest shift in air current. The juxtaposition of the rigid, cold and industrial medium of stainless steel, coupled with the organic and flowing movement of these sculptures, conveys hopeful and harmonious ideas about the convergence of technology and humanity.

Bortolazzo's manipulation of stainless steel is nothing short of impressive. The surface finishes vary, from brushed and smoothed to woven and meshed. These various surface treatments add a dynamic to the sculptures, reflecting light in numerous ways from different angles. This optical effect engages and encourages viewers to move around each piece. The combination of kinetic movement and optical interactivity, results in a fluid dance between the viewer and the sculpture.

The ten feet by ten feet installation of quarter-inch stainless steel beads suspended from the ceiling further explores Bortolazzo's study of *opti-kinetics* and the interactivity between his work and his audience. The visual effect of this one thousand pound curtain exemplifies Bortolazzo's playful and innovative views on the possibilities of the stainless steel medium, and how it can create organic and fluid interactions with its environment and the viewer.

ARTIST INFORMATION:

Ken Bortolazzo has been exhibiting his kinetic sculptures since the mid-1970's. He began his career with apprenticeships under such noted and influential artists as Julio Agostini, Kenneth Noland and George Rickey. Amongst these artists, the most influential for Bortolazzo and one who shaped his career and direction, was George Rickey. As the West Coast Studio Assistant to George Rickey, Bortolazzo collaborated with the legendary artist to further develop and refine the technology in Rickey's kinetic sculptures. Bortolazzo brought innovative ideas and engineering skills that helped improve the fluidity and motion in Rickey's work. Consequently, Bortolazzo is now the premier authority and conservationist for the George Rickey Estate.

Bortolazzo has exhibited his work in prestigious and influential galleries throughout California and New York. His work is included in the collections of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, the Outdoor Works Museum in Denver, as well as the corporate art collections of Microsoft and PTI Technologies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REQUEST VISUAL MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT KATHLEEN CRAIN AT 619-501-5689, or email kathleen@scottwhiteart.com

GALLERY INFORMATION:

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Hours:
Mon – Fri, 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sat, 11:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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