

A conversation with Artist Scott Stottlemyer

Can you tell us about your art background?

As a child I was inspired by the LOVE sculpture to become an artist someday. Nine years ago, cancer was the wake-up call that finally got me started on that dream. I am self-taught and spent the first few years making various types of metal art. I began to find my style when I started adding motion to the art.

Is kinetic movement always a part of your art?

Not all my artwork has movement, but I like the challenge of blending the creativity of art with the science of physics. It has a feeling of inventing something.

How long did the butterfly project take?

Over a two-year period, I tried to find a balance between the flexibility that allows motion and the strength to withstand our Indiana weather, which can unfortunately reduce motion. When I had the design, it took three months to build the sculpture.

What do you love about this project?

Butterflies are significant to me because they were my mother's favorite. She passed away when I was 18 years old, so this sculpture was created in her memory. She would love the colorful result. Who doesn't love to see butterflies?

Do you have a philosophy of art?

I want to show that there can also be a low-cost alternative to public art. I believe the community wants to have more of a voice in public art. Professional artists should help the community improvement groups find ways to include them. My next sculpture will be a collaboration with people that are new to the process.

This artwork is named Kaleidoscope. Can you tell us where that came from?

A group of butterflies is known as a Kaleidoscope.

