

FULL FATHOM FIVE





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STATEMENT

Statement by the Artist

The inspiration for Full Fathom Five is the fragile ecosystem that surrounds Florida, and which is in dire danger of disappearing in the next 50 years. I first discovered this astounding marine environment in 1985, when I started to scuba. Initially, I was fascinated by the fish that inhabit the reefs, but I became even more fascinated by the coral in 1998, after a dive excursion to the marine sanctuary in Bonaire. For the next couple of years, I dedicated myself to researching the different species. I started to render them in 3D, in the hope that by illustrating its beauty I might somehow contribute to the people that have not had a chance to view it in its own element. I also joined the Coral Reef Alliance, with a sense of urgency, knowing that my modest donations are helping to assist scientists in their attempt to slow, and stop, the rate at which coral is disappearing.

I believe it is critical to enlighten the general public about the importance of a healthy ocean, marine population and marine habitat. And given that our children are the future guardians of our natural treasures, I believe it is very important that the commissioned sculpture be as accessible to children as it is to adults.

Full Fathom Five appeals to children and adults in a fun, innovative and informative manner. It provides people with the opportunity to experience first-hand the variety of colors and textures in reefs, at no danger to living coral. Supplemental signage could serve to further inform them of special characteristics of the different species showcased by Full Fathom Five.

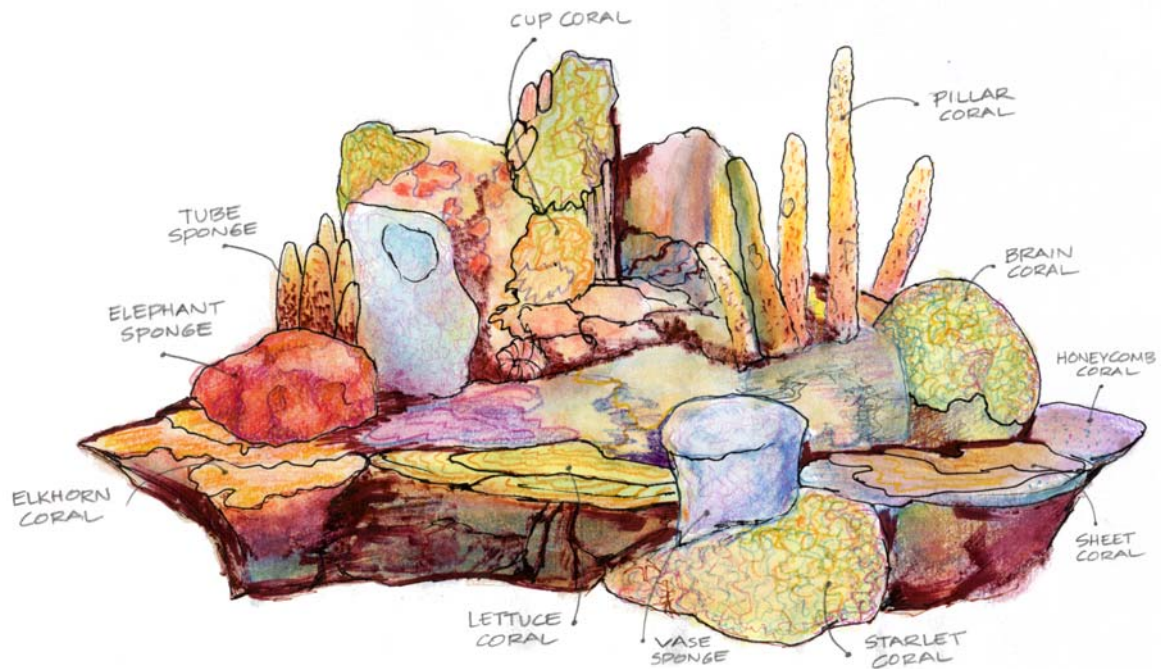
During the creation of the piece, I placed the corals at varying levels in order to increase the visual interest, but also to make the sculpture accessible to children and adults of all ages. Its circular design is ideal for placement in any environment, and its size and shape can accommodate numerous people simultaneously, in addition to providing "ideal" photo opportunities.

Kia Ricchi

FULL FATHOM FIVE

The very nature of coral provides for versatile creative opportunities.

The wide color and texture palettes ensure visual and tactile interest. The sculptural elements engage the viewer on a very physical and spatial level.



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ELEMENT: REEF



Full Fathom Five is a concrete sculpture that is designed for outdoor placement and allows for public seating.

It realistically depicts numerous coral species.

The reef element dimensions are 21' x 10' x 6'.



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ELEMENT: FABRICATION DETAIL



After the original sculpture design was completed, an engineer reviewed the live and dead loads of the work.

The steel armature, including lifting attachments, was welded and painted with a durable marine paint to prevent rusting.



After the lathe was attached to the steel framework, a 1/4" cement scratch coat was applied to stiffen the cage.

The final carving process involved the use of tinted cement which was manipulated with tools such as trowels and silicone molds.

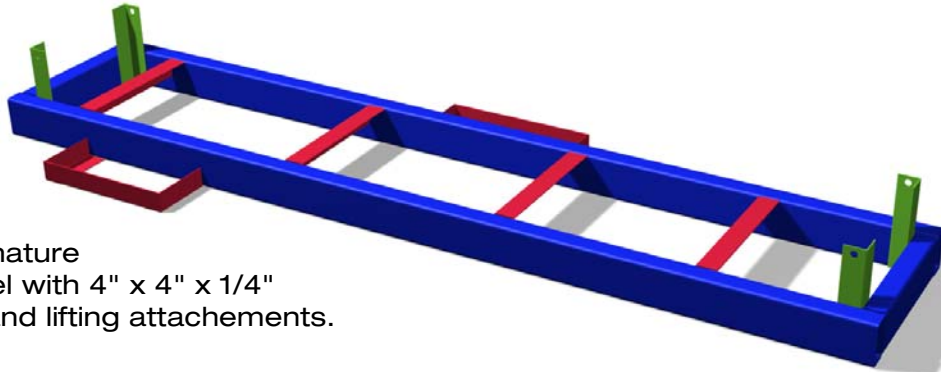


Final embellishment included the use of drybrushed highlights and acid staining.

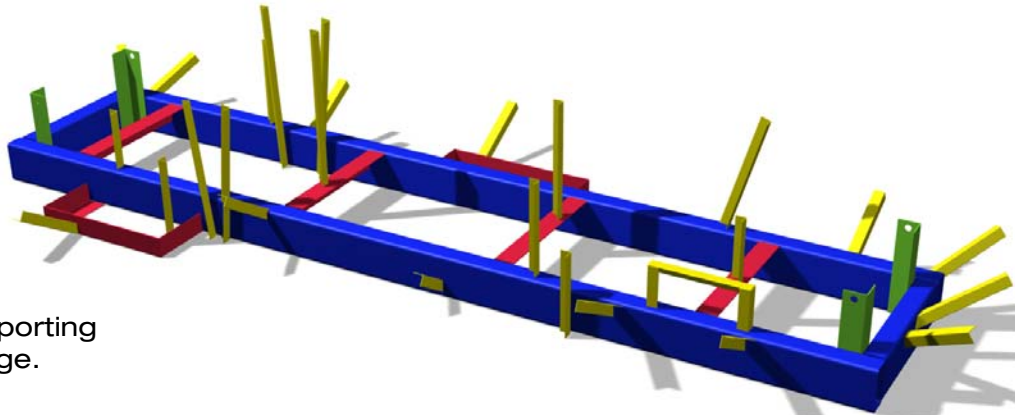


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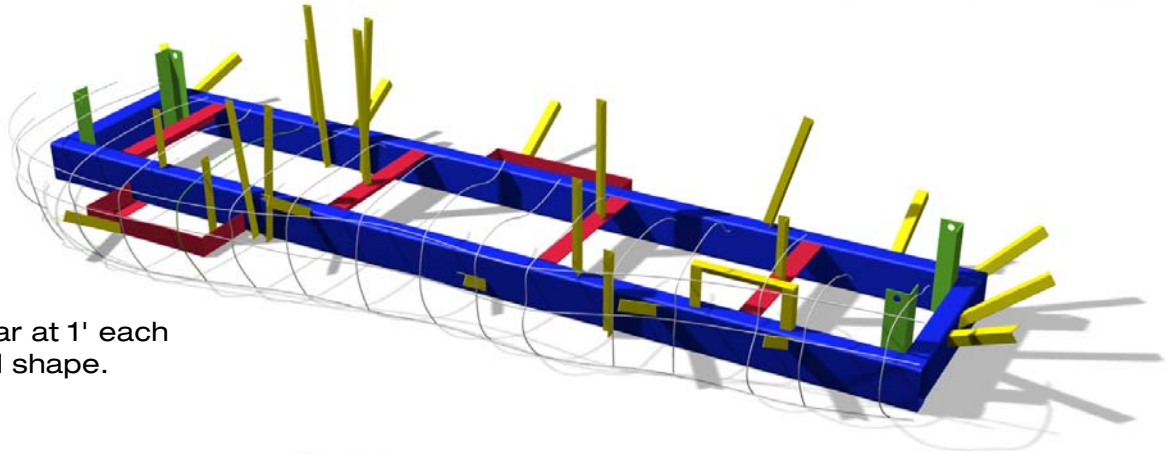
ELEMENT: INTERNAL STRUCTURE



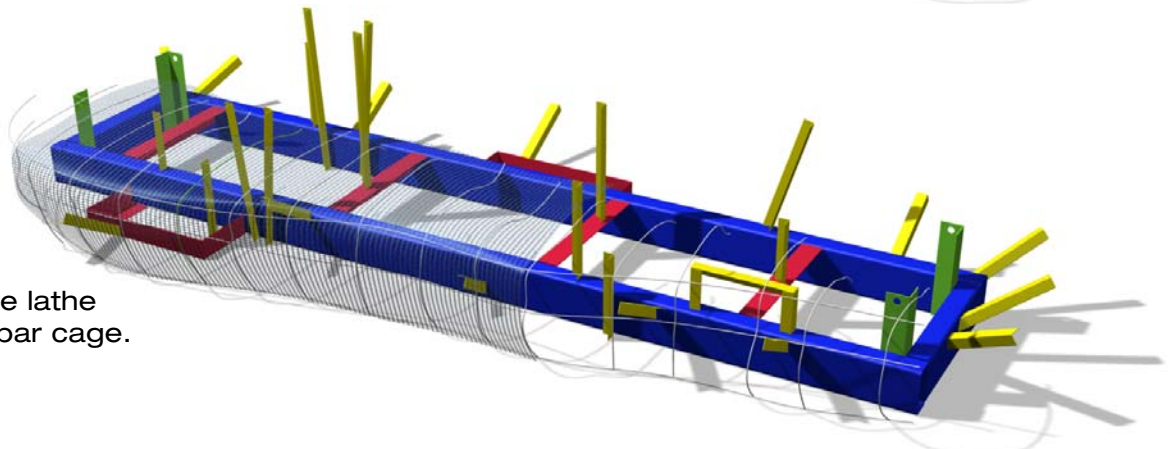
Primary Steel Armature
8" x 4" x 1/4" steel with 4" x 4" x 1/4"
cross members and lifting attachments.



Secondary Steel
2" x 2" x 1/4" supporting
steel for rebar cage.



Rebar Cage
#2 and #4 rebar at 1' each
way of general shape.



Cladding
Galvanized wire lath
attached to rebar cage.

MAINTENANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Maintenance Schedule

Full Fathom Five requires very little maintenance.

All interior steel has been protected with a 3-part Marine paint system by DeVoe.

To ensure longevity, I use integral pigments and muriatic stains, which resist UV fading. The piece can be pressure-washed annually, as needed, and a mild bleach solution can be used in the presence of mold. The “dry brushed” highlights can be freshened every 3 years using tinted, toluene concrete paints manufactured by Color Wheel.

Recommendations

In order to further enhance the public’s enjoyment of Full Fathom Five during the evening hours, it would be advisable to include landscape lighting in the surrounding area.