David C. Roy

Mechanics and motion have always fascinated me. During college I studied physics, engineering and chemistry to further my understanding of how things worked. I graduated with a degree in physics from Boston University in 1974. This intuitive understanding of motion and mechanics combined with the artistic influences of my wife, Marji, led me to the creation of kinetic sculptures. In 1975 we started "Wood That Works" and I became a full time sculptor. Since then I have designed and handcrafted over 80 different limited edition and one-of-a-kind kinetic sculptures. I have exhibited in numerous juried, invitational and group events. My work is displayed in galleries and private collections around the world. I currently maintain a studio in rural northeastern Connecticut.
Hello,

Welcome to the world of Wood That Works. This Soaring is number ______ out of a possible 24 pieces. It was made by me during the month of _______________ in 2000. I build, test and pack each sculpture myself, doing 6-12 pieces of an edition per month. It takes several years for me to complete an edition and some are never finished as I move on to new designs. Designing and building kinetic sculptures like Soaring has been my full time occupation for more than 20 years. I hope Soaring brings you and other viewers as much enjoyment as I've found in making it.

Soaring has been mounted on a wall in my shop and running for at least 10 hours before I pack it. I make every effort in design, construction and packing to make sure the piece will perform problem free for years to come. I use only the finest materials.

It leaves me happy and satisfied to find that my work has made it's way into new lives. I hope it brings you years of enjoyment.

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Directions: (continued)

To Wind:
• Turn the two winding wheels counter-clockwise 20 turns. You will have to move the arms out of the way to complete the winding. Try not to start the bird forms rocking.

To Start:
• If the sculpture does not start by itself after winding, gently push the rear arm in a clockwise direction.

To Stop:
• Slow the motion of the front and rear arms with your hand and let them come to rest with their heavy sides down. It takes some practice and patience!

Before Moving Sculpture:
• Always tape the spring-belts in place before moving the sculpture. This will save a lot of aggravation when it is time to set the piece up again.
• See the diagram for the best tape locations.

About Soaring

Soaring is a large sculpture composed of two “bird” forms performing an intricate dance of swoops and glides. One bird soars through a large 6 foot diameter circle at various speeds while the other proscribes a random pattern of ellipses within the larger circle. Elegantly elongated forms create visual poetry of spacious movement played out over time. The dance is constantly changing but remains fluid and stately throughout.

The motion in Soaring is driven by a double constant force spring mechanism that uses two winding wheels and a system of pulleys to deliver the energy to the small random escapement mechanism. Like many of my longer running sculptures this piece only gets a “push” when it runs out of energy and needs one.

Specifications:

Limited Edition of 24
Size: 64"h x 72"w x 6"d
Approximate Run Time: 9 hours
Materials: hardwood plywood, bearings
Soaring © 1999
To Mount on Wall:

- DO NOT remove the tape holding the spring-belts in place.
- Hold the mounting template in the desired location against a wall. The diagram shows the relationship of the template to the sculpture to guide you in positioning the sculpture on the wall. Please note the minimum clearance dimensions are shown at the edges of the template.
- Level the bottom edge of the template.
- Place a sharp instrument through the screw holes, marking their positions on the wall. Remove and save the template.
- Drill pilot holes. If the wall is sheetrock or plaster use plastic anchors.
- Screw the sculpture to the wall. NOTE: The top screw must be screwed tightly to the wall or top part of the sculpture will sag and strike the lower knobs.
- Install the “bird” forms. Remove the knob from the shaft at the end of the arm closest to the wall. Slide off the smaller of the 2 spacers (the front one) and set it aside. Slide the bird with the label “B” on the back onto this shaft. Slide the spacer back on and screw on the knob so that it is snug but don’t over tighten it.

Repeat the process with the other bird and arm.

- Remove the tape holding the spring-belts in place.

Directions continued on next page.