

Outdoor Art

It's Time to Vote for "The Keeper"

What's Your Favorite Sculpture for Possible Inclusion in Moab's Permanent Collection?

There's a free temporary outdoor public art exhibit in the heart of Moab that is soon to rotate with a new show this September 28th. Take a stroll along the art trail to view these pieces, or look the exhibition online, and you can vote for the one you'd like to see added to the city's permanent collection. The votes are tabulated, and results are revealed on Installation day, in conjunction with the Red Rock Arts Festival. Starting at the MARC on 3:30 that day, art lovers can take a first peek at the new show and meet the artists at the ArtStroll, an artist led, musically accompanied walking tour.

There's only a little more time to see the outgoing installation, Both residents and visitors have until September 1st to vote for "the keeper," at moabarttrails.org.

Each year the nonprofit Moab ArtTrails solicits submissions from artists nationwide to be part of the downtown area sculpture exhibition. Ten to 16 sculptures featured in the yearlong art exhibition are chosen by a rotating volunteer selection committee comprised of merchants, artists, civic leaders and other community members. For the upcoming show, the non-profit reports more submissions than ever yet received.

Williams and her sculptor husband Michael Ford Dunton cofounded Moab ArtTrails in 2015. Dunton donated the first piece of a large four-piece sculpture made of steel and locally-sourced sandstone. The three other pieces were purchased by benefactors to complete the artwork, titled "Forces at Play" – which was installed at the Colorado River Bike and Pedestrian Bridge.

Moab ArtTrails has added more than \$100,000 worth of artwork (13 sculptures) to the public sphere since the program was founded. Sculptures come from all over the United States, including Moab. Encouraging local artists to submit works for consideration is an emphasis for the org.

"The sculpture exhibit is a way for people to engage in shared spaces," Williams said. "The hope is over time the collection speaks to who we are."

The couple was inspired by Grand Junction's nationally renowned "Art on the Corner" outdoor sculpture exhibit in that city's downtown area. That program was conceived by the late Grand Junction artist Dave Davis, during the 1980s when the city was in the midst of an economic downturn. Davis saw that a rotating sculpture exhibition could revitalize Grand Junction's downtown area and establish it as a cultural district.

To view the artworks anytime visit the web site: https://app.otocast.com/guide/MoabUT_ArtTrails to find a map of the Art Trail and learn about the artists and their work.

If you are interested in more info, in being a volunteer selector or otherwise participating in the program, Moab ArtTrails invites you to reach out.

For more information, contact program leads Michael Ford Dunton and Christy Williams Dunton via email info@moabarttrails.org or by phone 435 259 2709 and be sure to mention you read about Moab ArtTrails in Moab Happenings.



This is *Water Spirit* by California artist Diego Harris. This piece was purchased from the 2022-2023 show. Photo by Glenn Kincaid



A Window in Time by Richard Prazen



Botanical by Pamela Ambrosio



Dropsy by Ted Schaal



In Flight by Pamela Ambrosio



Momentum by Steve Grater



Rattlesnake Shake by Jimmy Descant



Recharge Totem by Kevin Shaffer

Artwork photos by Bruce Hucko



Windswept by David Casper



Thorns, Bees and Rhinos by Nathan Johansen



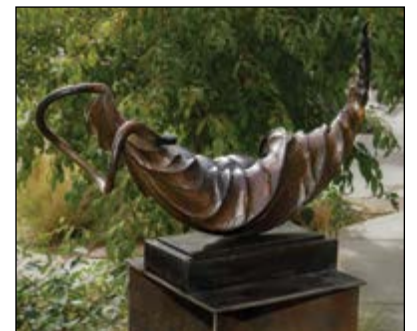
Titus by Michael Ford Dunton



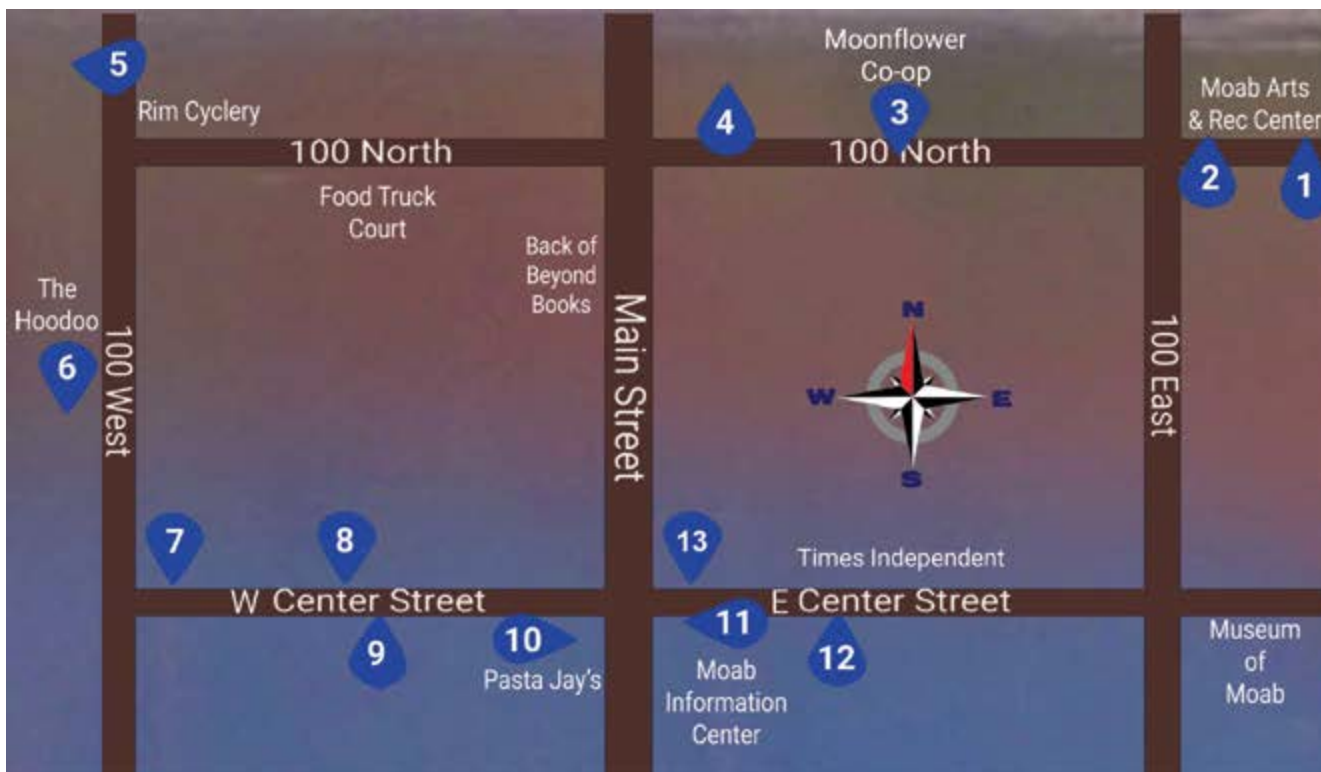
Was I Just Another One by Hector Ortega



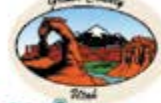
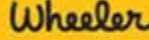
The Fashionista by Gedion Nyanhongo



Winter Hibiscus Leaf by Nathan Johansen



- 1 *A Window in Time*~Richard Prazen~\$9500
- 2 *Recharge Totem*~Kevin Shaffer~\$8200
- 3 *Winter Hibiscus Leaf*~Nathan Johansen~\$6200
- 4 *Titus*~Michael Ford Dunton~\$15000
- 5 *In Flight*~Pamela Ambrosio~\$3200
- 6 *The Fashionista*~Gedion Nyanhongo~\$29750
- 7 *Rattlesnake Shake*~Jimmy Descant~\$5000
- 8 *Windswept*~David Casper~\$8500
- 9 *Thorns, Bees and Rhinos*~Nathan Johansen~\$5300
- 10 *Momentum*~Stephen Grater~\$7500
- 11 *Was I Just Another One*~Hector Ortega~\$7700
- 12 *Botanical*~Pamela Ambrosio~\$5800
- 13 *Dropsy*~Ted Schaal~\$20000



All pieces are available for purchase contact Moab ArtTrails at 435-259-2709 or info@moabarttrails.org