

NORTH CAROLINA

Museum of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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The North Carolina Museum of Art announces gift of Roxy Paine sculpture *New work of art honors former Board of Trustees chair*

RALEIGH, N.C. – The North Carolina Museum of Art announced today it has received a gift in honor of Julia Jones Daniels, former chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Museum of Art. Created and designed specifically for the Museum by artist Roxy Paine, *Askew* is a 43-foot tall hand-wrought, stainless steel tree.

“The North Carolina Museum of Art is such an important part of the life of our community and our state. As the Museum continues to acquire significant works of art by important artists, I am honored with the addition of this spectacular sculptural tree to the Museum’s landscape,” said Julia Daniels, who chaired the Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2003.

When the Museum’s new building is completed in late 2009, the monumental sculpture will be installed in the south garden, adjacent to the main entrance. Over four stories tall, *Askew* will be visible from numerous vantage points inside and outside the Museum. The stainless steel surfaces of the tree change dramatically depending upon the light of day. Mirroring and reflecting the environment, the tree displays the colors of the natural world in a brilliant metallic light show of blues, greens, silvers, and whites.

“We are grateful for this gift in honor of Julia Daniels,” said Museum Director Lawrence J. Wheeler. “Her years of service to the Museum are deeply appreciated and this magnificent Roxy Paine sculpture will stand as a testament to her commitment to and her passion for the Museum.”

Roxy Paine’s trees are “hybrids” in more than one sense of the word—inspired by “real” trees but not truthful depictions of actual species, his manmade versions of natural elements blur the boundaries between nature and culture, the natural and the artificial.

Paine has described his work as a “collision of the industrial world with the natural world.” He uses the same industrial materials and processes that are used to build pipelines—cutting, shaping, welding, polishing, and combining custom-made forms with thousands of pieces of metal pipes and rods to create trees with intricately detailed branches, dramatic cantilevers, and eccentric forms.

(more)

Roxy Paine was born in 1966 in New York and studied at both the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico and the Pratt Institute in New York. Since 1990, his work has been internationally exhibited and is included in major collections such as De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art, Tilburg, The Netherlands; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY.

His tree sculptures can be found at various museums and foundations including the Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, WA; Wanas Foundation, Knislinge, Sweden; Montenmedio Arte Contemporaneo NMAC, Cadiz, Spain; St. Louis Museum of Art, St. Louis, MO; and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas. He currently lives and works in Brooklyn and Treadwell, NY.

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The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making it one of the premier visual arts museums in the Southeast. The Museum uses its collection to provide educational, aesthetic, intellectual and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The Museum offers a series of changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films and concerts.

The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the Art Museum of the State of North Carolina, Michael F. Easley, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Lisbeth C. Evans, secretary. Museum hours are Tuesday–Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, the Museum is open until 9 p.m. every Friday. Closed Monday. Admission is free.

Visit the NCMA's Web site at www.ncartmuseum.org.