



## Lewes public art exhibit is up and turning in the wind Six pieces placed in George H.P. Smith park for the summer

By Bill Shull | April 25, 2024



The sculpture, "M.T. Skirt," is lowered into Blockhouse Pond April 24. Artist Paul Daniel and Steve Walker from the Lewes Public Art Committee are in the boat, helping guide the floating artwork into the water. Photos: Bill Shull

Paul Daniel is not the typical artist that might be found in a public park. Instead of an easel, paint brushes and a canvas, his tools were, well, tools.

Daniel spent three days with drills, ratchets and screwdrivers assembling six sculptures that are now up in George H.P. Smith Park in Lewes.

The pieces are this year's temporary art installation, spearheaded by the city's public art committee. Each one of the pieces is kinetic, driven by the wind and designed to put on a show.

"It's better than I expected," said Heidi Lowe, committee chair. "I thought the pictures were cool, but when they're moving, it does so much more."

"They move. They change. They're really active and entertaining," Daniel said.

The centerpiece, which Daniel named “M.T. Skirt,” is floating in Blockhouse Pond.

On April 24, the Lewes Board of Public Works provided a truck to lift the piece into the water, while Daniel and committee member Steve Walker paddled out in a rowboat to guide it into place.

The other pieces are spread around the path that meanders through the park. Their names are “Argus,” “Manolis,” “Bad Apple,” “Red Eye” and “Sun Tattler.”

“‘Argus’ and ‘Sun Tattler’ have mirrors. They will start to tell you where the sun is during the day. As the world turns, they sort of describe what nature is doing around them,” Daniel said. “When ‘Manolis’ gets going, it really hums.”

This was the first time the Baltimore artist has placed his pieces outdoors in Delaware.

The committee chose Daniel for this year’s installation from a list of other artists. He came to check out the park last fall and knew it would be a great location to showcase his art.

“Nice place. Everybody seemed so happy, so it makes me happy,” Daniel said.

Besides Lowe and Walker, Lewes Councilman Tim Ritzert, Daniel’s wife Linda and his assistant Kyle Miller all pitched in to install the pieces between April 23-25.

The six sculptures will be up in George H.P. Smith Park all summer.

“I hope people come and check them out. They’re all around the pond; it kind of walks you around the pond,” Lowe said.

Last year’s temporary art piece is still standing in Canalfront Park. “Paviljeon,” Dutch for pavilion, is slated to be removed in May.



“M.T. Skirt” is one of six wind-driven sculptures placed around George H.P. Smith Park for this year’s temporary art exhibit.



Heidi Lowe, Lewes Public Art Committee chair, walks with artist Paul Daniel. Part of the piece called "M.T. Skirt" hangs over the path. "Bad Apple" is in the background.



"Argus" has mirrors that turn in the wind. Daniel said it describes what nature is doing around it.



Taylor Husbands of Lewes walks by "Bad Apple," one of the pieces now up in George H.P. Smith Park.



"Sun Tattler" sits along the path on the south side of the park.



"Manolis" is located on the north side of the park. Daniel said it really hums when it gets going in the wind.



(L-R) Linda Daniel, Paul Daniel, Lewes Councilman Tim Ritzert, Lewes Public Art Committee member Steve Walker and committee Chair Heidi Lowe help assemble "M.T. Skirt" April 24.



The Lewes Board of Public Works provided a truck to help lift the floating sculpture into Blockhouse Pond.



Artist Paul Daniel secures the floating sculpture "M.T. Skirt" in Blockhouse Pond.



Artist Paul Daniel, left, and Lewes Public Art Committee member Steve Walker help piece together "Sun Tattler" April 23.