

About the Artist:

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 150 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.

Wood 
that Works

Calligraphy • Directions

Kinetic Sculpture by David C. Roy
©2023



To the Owner...

Hello,

Welcome to the world of Wood That Works. This Calligraphy is number _____ out of a possible 7 pieces. It was made by me during the month of _____ in 2023 .

I build, test and pack each sculpture myself, doing 6-9 pieces of an edition at a time. Designing and building kinetic sculptures like Calligraphy has been my full time occupation since 1975. I hope Calligraphy brings you and other viewers as much enjoyment as I've found in making it.

Calligraphy has been mounted on a wall in my shop and running for at least 2 complete windings (many 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. Of course, problems can still occur no matter how hard I try to prevent them. My answer to this is a warranty to the original owner against defects in materials and workmanship for three years. See the guarantee section of this booklet for details.

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

David C. Roy

Specifications:

Size: 40”h x 54”w x 7”d (space required for motion)

Power Source: negator spring

Approximate Run Time: approx. 4.5 hours

Materials: hardwood plywood, bearings,

Calligraphy © 2023

Subsequent windings:

- Turn the winding wheel in a clockwise direction 23 turns.
- Pay close attention to the top of the light colored wood spool directly behind the winding wheel. Stop winding as soon as you see the red tape appear on the metal band. This is placed about 1 turn from the end. *Winding beyond this point may damage the sculpture.*
- The ratchet pawl at the top of the mechanism keeps the spring from unwinding rapidly. NEVER touch the ratchet pawl after the sculpture is wound. the spring will release and damage will probably result.

Before Moving Sculpture:

- Make sure the power spring is unwound.
- 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. Blue Painter's tape works well.
- It is safest to pack if you remove the patterning wheels. Reverse the steps for installation. Be sure to save the spacer. Tape it back on the shaft before you screw the knob on.
- Make sure you keep the wheels supported flat during storage or transportation. They can warp if not supported.

Guarantee:

- My kinetic sculptures are guaranteed to the original owner for a period of three years. All warranties expire with transfer of ownership from the original owner. Damage of the sculpture from exposure to extremes of high or low humidity, or to adverse hot or cold temperatures, or damage caused by normal wear and tear, accidents, misuse, or modification will not be covered by the warranty. Shipping and insurance to and from Wood That Works is the responsibility of the purchaser.
- I will charge a reasonable repair fee if the sculpture was damaged by misuse or needs refurbishment from normal wear and tear.

Directions:



Insert
finger
here to
wind

Important First Time winding instructions:

- The first time you wind up this sculpture after unpacking requires special attention. Shipping may have caused parts to move unexpectedly.
- First look for obvious things that might have come out of alignment in shipping. (Belts out of pulleys, springs out of slots, etc.)
- Only turn the winding wheel TWO turns for the first run.
- Turn the winding wheel in

a clockwise direction.

- Make sure the metal band is winding inside the larger spool walls. If it isn't, shift it so that it does. It should be fine for all future windings. A short run will show you if parts slid out of alignment during shipping.

To Start

- Rotate the front spiral 1/2 rotation and release it. (This isn't necessary but starts the dance more quickly.)
- Rotate the back spiral wheel clockwise until the mechanism clicks and then release it.
- If it doesn't run as expected email David at david@woodthatworks.com.

About Calligraphy:

Two years ago, I introduced Calligraphy, a sculpture with an interesting chaotic motion. Despite its uniqueness, I never offered it for sale due to its frenetic and noisy nature, which proved to be more disruptive than I had anticipated. It was a sculpture I couldn't envision living with, let alone anticipating others enjoying it.

Over the past two years, I've been experimenting with and refining Calligraphy. The joy I find in retirement is having the luxury of time which allows me this continued exploration. The sculpture now runs for longer periods, is quieter, and the motion is significantly less frenetic. The updated mechanism has evolved to behave more like the one found in my sculpture Chaos, incorporating quiet intervals of non-engagement seamlessly interspersed with bursts of energetic dances.

I've left the original Calligraphy page including the video on the website. The narrative detailing the decades long development of this piece is shared there. Those of you that are interested in the nuances of my work should compare the two videos. Can you perceive the difference in the motion?

<https://www.woodthatworks.com/kinetic-sculptures/calligraphy>

<https://www.woodthatworks.com/kinetic-sculptures/calligraphy-prequel>

To Mount on Wall:

- Do not remove the blue tape until instructed to do so.
- Calligraphy does not need a template to set up.
- Hold the base up against the wall. Position the top screw hole. This spot needs to have 19" clearance to the left, 20" to the right, 17" above and 37" below this top hole.
- Hold the sculpture in the desired location and screw the top screw in place temporarily securing the sculpture base to the wall. Shift the dark base so that the center of the upper shaft is directly above the center of the winding wheel shaft. You can test with a plum line. I made a quick one with a spoon and a string as shown in the photo to the right. When it is aligned correctly screw in all the screws marking their exact location on the wall.
- Take the sculpture down by removing the screws.



- Remove the knob on the top shaft. Remove the plum string if you used one.
- Handle the spiral wheels with care. They are fragile.
- Slide the spiral wheel assembly onto the shaft. The hole in the end of the back wheel slides onto the shaft. It has two bearings that need to be lined up. Push the small lever on the back wheel out of the way if necessary to completely seat the wheel. This is shown from a side view in the diagram. The spiral wheel assembly is outlined with the dotted line.
- Screw the knob back in place. Tighten just enough to secure it in place. *Do not over tighten.* The spiral wheel should be free to move back and forth on the shaft about 1/16 inch.
- Remove the blue tape securing the belts.

