

The Observer

LONGBOAT

Florida's Best Weekly Newspaper

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008

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CREATOR'S CHOICE by Stephanie Finnan | Assistant A&E Editor

Jorge Blanco

Sculptor

Though he hails from Venezuela, Jorge Blanco, along with his bright sculptures, calls Sarasota home. This artist produces playful artwork with a mathematical foundation that brightens up public spaces around the world. Blanco's talent stems from building on, and nurturing, the artistic ability he discovered as a child.

"I've been in art all my life, because — in my opinion — every child is an artist. I never stopped drawing or coloring," says Blanco.

Blanco studied industrial design and spent 20 years as the art director for the Children's Museum in Caracas. Blanco also spread his talents throughout the illustration world — designing the comic strip "El Nanfrago" ("The Castaway") for the local newspaper and illustrating children's books. Although his talent stretched across the board, Blanco realized his heart was in sculpture.

"Sculpture is my passion. I'll do this forever. Everything else is on a second, different level," says Blanco. "If I was living in the desert in Africa, it might be impossible to do what I'm doing. I'm doing this because of my experience from a big city, my experience as a graphic designer and my studies in industrial design; it seems it was all put in a blender and my passion was developed."

In addition to being selected out of 10,000 applicants to display his work, "Rolling," at the National Museum of China in Beijing, Blanco also has permanent sculptures on display in Sarasota,

Venice, Longboat Key, San Diego, Reno, Palm Beach and Tokyo. The pieces may have a minimalist look, but the process is anything but.

While the actual installation only takes a couple of hours, the construction and design process can take a few months — beginning with drawings, small models followed by bigger models made out of cardboard, detailed technical drawings that resemble house plans and purchasing the materials.

Although Blanco equally favors all of his pieces of artwork, he is striving to make that one masterpiece that takes the cake: "I'm still waiting for my favorite piece."



Stephanie Finnan

BLANCO'S TOP 5 SCULPTORS

- Alexander Calder
- Auguste Herbin
- Paul Klee
- Naum Gabo
- Jesus Soto

For more information about Blanco's artwork, visit www.jorgeblancosculpture.com.