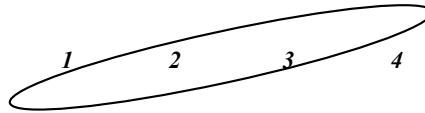


This text was part of the original installation

C h r i s t i n e W h i t t a k e r

Performance, Installations, and Multi-Media Sculpture



Pinwheels Suspended by I – Beam

Proposal for Temporary Exterior Placement

The “Pinwheels Suspended by I – Beam” sculpture is a 17’ H x 11 ½” W x 25’ L structure supporting 140 orange plastic pinwheels mounted on purple and blue-green steel sheets. The sculpture is designed (to be installed) to an existing building in a public space. The weight of the I-beam and the length of the cable (from the top of the structure to the I – beam) structurally suspend, stabilize and actually align all of the pinwheel plates.

Activated by the wind currents, the whole structure responds as the pinwheels dictate the wind currents. At one time the whole surface could take on different patterns of the wind current, and move at different speeds. Each pinwheel is dotted with the color of the opposite adjoining plate (i.e. orange pinwheel on blue-green plate is dotted purple and the adjoining pinwheel on the purple plate is dotted blue-green).

When the pinwheels turn at full speed, a circular line of color is created by the dot pattern to dictate the color of the opposite plate. This process imposes a color transition between the now circular rotation of color, the orange pinwheel and the opposing solid color background plate. The moving pinwheels also create sound as the wind moves through the aerodynamic body of the plastic shutters.

The “Pinwheel Suspended by I – Beam” sculpture dictates the environment; it is about the lyrical movement of the wind. It is transformed from an abstract to a visual understanding of wind (and it’s inconsistency) and the sound it creates. The suspended I- beam creates a sense of curiosity and suspense with the viewer.

Basically, the piece would always be moving day and night. It could be lighted at the base so that the piece would also be visible at night.