

# Art Board ready to recommend next installation for Village Green

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The Art in Public Places Board is working with a Miami-based artist on a colorful sundial sculpture to locate next to the Tot Lot on the Village Green, where they say it would fit perfectly with the youthful recreation and learning going on nearby.

Board members asked artist Jim Drain to fine-tune several aspects of his proposal before they meet again in early June, after which they hope to make a recommendation to the Village Council to move forward with the project.

Art Board Consulting Artist Cesar Trasobares said the group reviewed two proposals – Drain’s and one from another Miami artist, Cristina Lei Rodriguez, at a Tuesday, May 14, meeting. Both artists presented images of proposed sculptures as well as detailed information on the fabrication and installation of their works before the board, following “much discussion and consideration,” ultimately decided to move forward with Drain, Trasobares reported.

He added the committee hopes to get the project underway during its current budget cycle, which runs until the end of September.

Lei Rodriguez’s proposal, meanwhile, was tabled for future consideration.

Drain’s installation, called “Pleated Sundial,” is designed to be not only aesthetically appealing and interesting, but functional as well.

Drain told *The Islander News* the overall form of the work has already been established: flat, vertical half-inch stainless steel “pleats” divide stacked 12-by-12-inch blocks of white terrazzo, creating a sundial sculpture.

He added, “The terrazzo will have large rods of glass embedded into each block, allowing for a playful display of light and

shadow to happen within this terrazzo/steel relationship.”

In addition, he said, the work will be intersected by a stylus pointing north at 25.69 degrees.

According to Drain, “This will allow for a functional hourly reading. I am currently working with Walter Van Hamme, an astronomer from [Florida International University], to make sure we have the functional aspects of ‘Pleated Sundial’ correct.”

Once that is done, Drain said, he will have a more accurate picture of the base needed for the sculpture. He said the base will have hourly markings as well as an in-ground lighting element.

The installation would go next to the Village Green Tot Lot, which the committee saw as a good fit.

Trasobares remarked, “The structure’s dynamic, changing colors and shadows, and its welcoming bench and base, are fitting with the play, observation and learning activities that take place in that corner of the park.”

Along with the sculpture, Drain will provide the Village a signed high-resolution print depicting “Pleated Sundial,” which will be framed for the public art program’s collection.

Committee members did ask Drain for some additional information before moving forward.

Trasobares said the committee wants cost figures for construction of the sculpture’s base and bench out of terrazzo in a color of the artist’s choice, as well as a better definition – including location and number – of the use of lights in the sculpture’s base.

That information will be incorporated into Drain’s final proposed budget and presented to the board when it meets in early June. Trasobares said he hopes to fi-



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nalize a contract with Drain soon, so the committee can take the project to the Council for review and approval Tuesday, June 25.

Trasobares added he is currently working with Drain, Building, Zoning and Planning Director Jud Kurlancheek, and Village staff to draft a contract.

**About the artist**

Drain, who lives and works in Miami, was born in Cleveland in 1975 and attended Rhode Island School of Design, earning a bachelor's of fine arts in sculpture.

He was a member of Forcefield, a collective of artists and musicians who were later featured in the 2002 Whitney Biennial, an exhibition of contemporary American art at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City that is generally regarded as one of the leading shows in the art world, often setting or leading trends in contemporary art.

Drain has had recent solo exhibitions at the University of Florida; Locust Projects, Miami; and the Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas, Austin. He has par-

ticipated in group exhibitions at the Gefen Contemporary, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia; Serpentine Gallery, London; Depart Foun-

dation, Rome; the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennale d'Art Contemporain de Lyon; and Prism Gallery, Los Angeles.

His work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New

York, and he is one of two recipients of the 2005 Bâloise Prize, an award for young or emerging artists.

Drain is represented by Greene Naftali Gallery in New York.

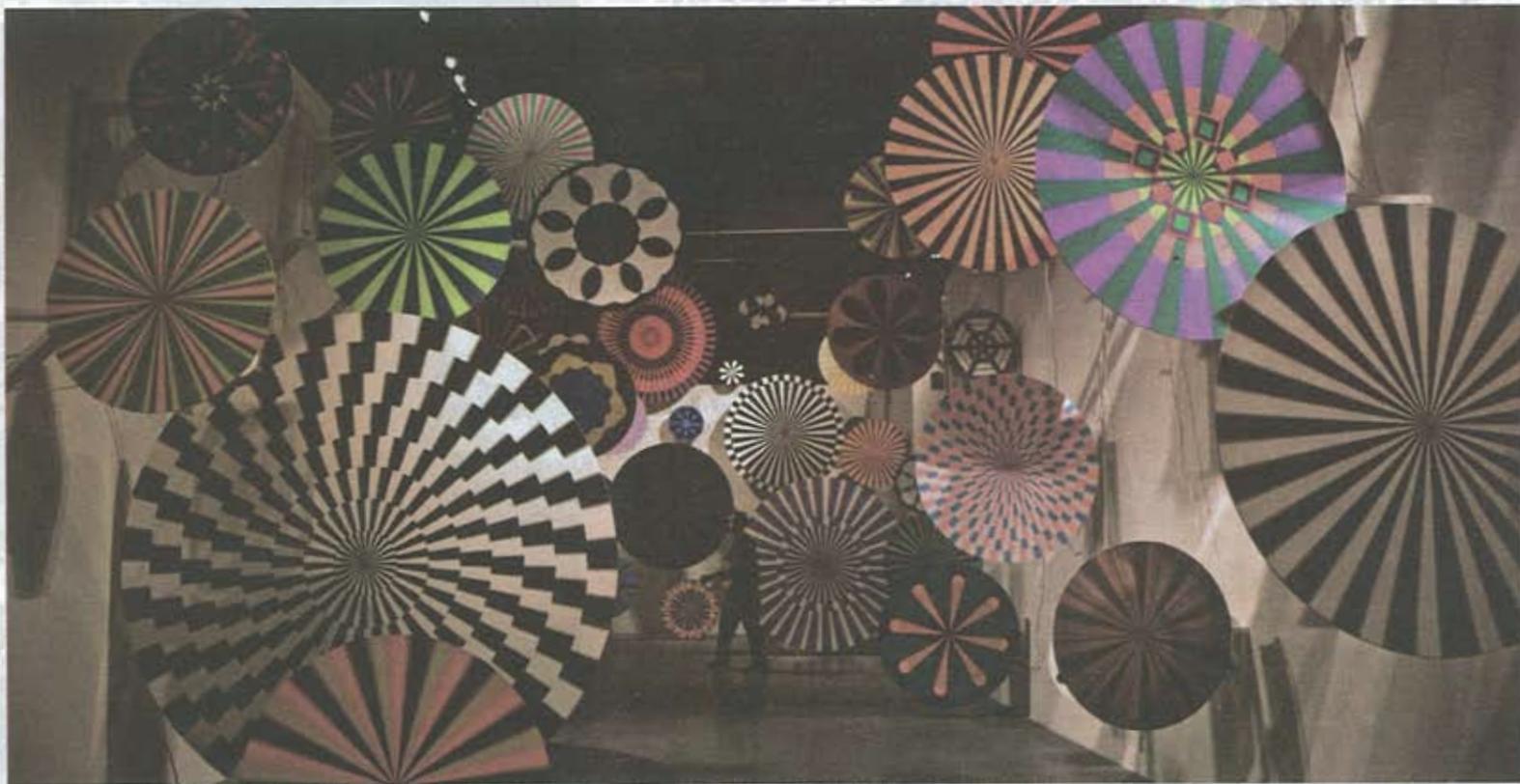


Photo courtesy Jim Drain

**The installation *Pinwheels*, by artists Jim Drain and Ara Peterson, was featured at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles as part of the Transmission LA: AV Club festival. Key Biscayne's Art in Public Places Board is close to recommending working with Drain for a sundial installation on the Village Green.**