

## Aesthetic Description of the work

This work may be interpreted as an ode to nature, but also it is symbolic of human freedom, aspiration and unity. In this work we see the form rise up from the roots connected to earth, both plant life (tree) and animal life (doves) entwined, spiraling up towards the light and air. In this rise we see two columns of birds spiral upwards, symbolic of the helix of DNA, then join at the height in unity. We see the different forms of life, plant and animal, entwined and reaching upwards together, in unity, because one could not live without the other. Spiritually, we as humans are moved by the rise of a group of doves, the symbol of peace, of freedom, of reaching for the sky unfettered, the symbol of the aspiration of the human spirit

## Physical Description of Sculpture

The base of the sculpture will be a foundation pad of reinforced concrete approximately 10 in thick, 8 x 8. This pad must be poured by McKinney City at least a week or more prior to the sculpture's arrival and installation. The pad is necessary to support and anchor the work. The lower section of the sculpture will be comprised of a hammered copper, conically or trapezoidal shaped, hollow form, this shell is to be filled with concrete at site. The hammered copper surface shell depicts in repousse' relief, a flock of birds rising up from, foliage on one side of the work, and on the other side is depicted the roots and the trunk of a large tree with branches rising up, with birds seen between these branches. This will comprise the bottom two meters of the sculpture, from that point upwards on the sculpture will be made of heavy steel plate, 12mm thick (1/2 inch), plasma cut depicting the Silhouettes of a rising flock of doves, the bird shapes will be seen as cutouts in the plate and also as free flying cutout shapes and welded in a flock to the sides of the main steel plates. These heavy plates will be roll formed into gently spiral shapes. The two large spiraling triangles of Steel shall form a double helix spiraling upwards, joining at the top as bird shape cutouts are welded together joining the spirals into a flock of birds spiraling upwards as one.

The entire work will weigh several tons, including the concrete poured inside the hollow form at the base. The steel elements shall be attached with steel rods drilled deeply into the concrete base pad and rise up through the hollow hammered copper form. Concrete will then be poured into an opening at the top of the hollow copper form and will become bonded to the concrete base pad below, making a contiguous reinforced concrete anchor for the steel spiraling upwards above joining it as one piece into the hammered copper element below. The foundation pad will become part of one large reinforced masonry masse directly anchoring the steel that extends above, solid, strong, tornado proof.

The entire work shall be patina'd with a bismuth white coating and various oxides of copper and iron, oiled and waxed. Over decades, some natural changes will occur the appearance of the copper and steel surfaces as they age in the weather, but the patina coating itself is not a paint but is composed of bismuth, copper, and iron oxides, so the aging will be a natural organic effect of weathering beautifying it further. The integrity of the work is warranted by Hopen Studio Corporation for a century.

Lasting for centuries, the lower section will be a bas relief design, repoussed (hammered) 3-d shape, hollow, but filled with 5000 lbs of sand/portland concrete to create a solid, massively strong trapezoidal base, so when touched or pounded upon, it does not drum hollow, but presents a massive solid feel like a rock or mountain wall. This will also greatly strengthen the work to resist hurricane force winds or flooding. "massiveness" + "solidity" = "quality", the feel of permanence and indestructibility,

immutability.

The upper section will be thick plate, plasma cut, to continue the bird design up into space, the birds largely seen as cut out spaces within the heavy metal plate then transitioning into solid birds, cut out of heavy plate ascending into space, becoming more three dimensional, wing tip to wing tip, spiraling up.

### Safety and Engineering

We will over-engineer the strength of attachment to a massive base and foundation, over-engineer the welded joints, over-engineer the strength and gauge of material throughout etc, making toppling, flexing or collapse in strong winds impossible. (We have on staff, a metal smith with extensive engineering school training and professional experience in strength of materials, engineering and construction)

We will design this work to prevent children from climbing the work, so the bottom 2 meters( six foot) of the work will be kept smooth and monolithic, The bottom 2-3 meters of this work will be made an "un-climbable" surface with no hand holds or foot holds to allow young children to scale up into the work like it is a jungle gym.

There are no hazardous chemicals or metals used in its construction or coloration or surface finishing

There are no sharp or jagged surfaces within reach

Though this work will weigh several tons, its weight distribution is very bottom heavy, spread out and well anchored onto an 8x8 foot print

The work is guaranteed to last for centuries

Sculptors Ai Qiu Hopen & Bill Hopen

Physical production, fabrication, and installation, Hopen Studio Incorporated, Sutton, West Virginia