Patrick Shearn

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Patrick Shearn is an American artist, specializing in larger-than-life, immersive public art installations. The artist's signature kinetic sculptures are internationally renowned and regularly generate viral public interest. Shearn's expertise in animatronics, robotics and visual effects– gleaned from a 30-year tenure in the film industry as a creature maker and visual effects supervisor on films such as Jurassic Park and Interview with a Vampire– has lent traction to a prolific career as Founder and Creative Director for his studio Poetic Kinetics. Under Shearn's guiding vision, Poetic Kinetics has designed, fabricated, and implemented a wide range of projects that encourage audience participation.From giant puppets and immersive projections to festival-scale pyrotechnics to artisanal, museum exhibitions and kinetic public installations, the studio leverages technology and craftsmanship to create experiences that linger long after a viewer has walked away.

Selected Major Sculptural Installations

Aspen Light, 2025, Denver, Colorado. Commissioned by Denver Public Art as part of the award-winning 16th Street Mall revitalization, a permanent sculptural installation composed of three 30-ft-tall stainless steel and acrylic tree sculptures. Positioned at the heart of downtown, the work transforms a once-transit-heavy corridor into a vibrant gathering place alive with shifting color and reflection. Inspired by Colorado's iconic aspen groves, the piece has been celebrated by the city mayor as "the jewel of Denver" for its visual impact, craftsmanship, and its role in transforming an urban thoroughfare into a beloved civic destination.

Visions in Motion, 2019 & 2022, Berlin, Germany and DMZ, Korea. Commemorating the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the 20,000 sq. ft. kinetic installation spanned 450 ft. at the Brandenburg Gate, where the former wall divided the city. Commissioned for the occasion by the State of Berlin, the artwork is comprised of approximately 120,000 pieces of fabric— 30,000 of which contain handwritten messages of hope, unity and peace collected from the world community. The artwork was subsequently reconfigured and redisplayed at the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea, as a statement of peace.

Reflection Rising, 2017, Scottsdale, Arizona. A 16,000 sq.ft colorful kinetic fabric sculpture suspended above the Scottsdale Waterfront, ending in a shady silver swath above the iconic Soleri Bridge, exhibited as the premier installation in the annual Canal Convergence Water + Art + Light festival. In 2018, Reflection Rising was recognized by Americans for the Arts' Public Art Network as Outstanding Public Artwork.

Firebird Descent, 2017, St. Petersburg, Russia. A 32,500 sq. ft. kinetic sculpture made up of brilliantly colored sailcloth in a radial design at the inauguration of New Holland Island cultural center in St. Petersburg, Russia. The work's scale was so impressive, it was visible from space.

Nimbus, 2016, Los Angeles, California. Site-specific immersive installation made up of suspended hyperrealistic cloud sculptures with motion-sensor activated synchronized illumination and musical composition displayed at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, conceived in collaboration with Los Angeles Philharmonic's artist-collaborator, Yuval Sharon and composer Rand Steiger.

Liquid Shard, 2016, Los Angeles, California. A 15,000 sq. ft. kinetic sculpture made of holographic film and monofilament, rising from 15 feet off the ground to 115 feet in the air in Los Angeles' Pershing Square. The work garnered viral acclaim, enlivened an under-utilized urban park, and remains one of the city's most memorable public art installations.

Escape Velocity, 2014, Indio, California. A giant mobile astronaut (36' tall x 57' long x 40' wide) with interactive radio controlled animatronics that broke records as the most photographed art piece at Coachella Valley Music Festival. Affectionately known as the Coachella Astronaut, the piece remains one of Coachella's most iconic commissions and went on to the Science Museum of Minnesota's permanent collection.

Warrior and the Girl, 2008, Beijing, China. A 22-foot tall terracotta warrior puppet and a 15 ft. tall Chinese girl puppet, accompanied by dancers of the Beijing Dance Company in a choreographed performance commissioned for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The puppets were acquired by the Terracotta Warrior Museum in Xi'an, China, where they are on permanent display.

Selected Lectures, Speaking Engagements

2026 Aspen Ideas Festival, Aspen, CO

2025 American Public Gardens Association Tourism Symposium, Atlanta, GA

2025 Green Box Arts Festival, Green Mountain Falls, CO

2025 University of Colorado, Ent Center for the Arts, Colorado Springs, CO

2024 South Coast Botanic Garden, Farm to Table Dinner, Palos Verdes, CA

2024 American Public Gardens Association Conference, Boston, MA

2024 Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs, CO

2022 Let's DMZ Peace Art Festival, Imingak, DMZ, South Korea

2021 Artist Keynote, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta, GA

2020 Business of Design Week, Masterclass, Hong Kong, China

2020 Laguna Art Museum, Art & Nature Festival, Laguna Beach, CA

2020 Los Angeles Design Festival, Los Angeles, CA

2019 PBS, Art in the Air, USA

2019 AIGA Y24 Design Conference, San Diego, CA

2018 Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Boston, MA

2017 Scottsdale Public Art, Canal Convergence Keynote, Scottsdale, AZ

2016 AA School of Architecture Visiting School, Visiting Artist Lecturer, Los Angeles, CA

2014 Mindshare L.A., Los Angeles, CA

Selected Awards and Grants

2026 Anthem Awards, Arts & Cultural Programming in Education, Art & Culture for Momentum

2026 CODA Worx, Merit Award in Suspended Art for Off the Beaten Path

2025 American Society of Landscape Architects, Merit Award in Urban Design for 16th Street with Aspen Light

2025 CODA Worx, Landscape Award for Momentum

2025 CODA Worx, CODA Top 100 Award for Enchanted Trees

2025 Fiber Arts Awards, Contemporary Fiber: Botanicals for Spore Symphony

2024 Anthem Awards, Education Art & Culture for Visions in Motion

2024 Black Rock Arts Foundation, Honorarium Grant for Sky Gazing

2023 Anchorage Museum, Supporting Grant for Vanishing Points

2023 Black Rock Arts Foundation, Honorarium Grant for Vanishing Points

2023 CODA Worx, Landscape Award for Visions in Motion

2023 CODA Worx, CODA Top 100 Award for Visions in Motion

2023 CODA Worx, CODA Top 100 Award for Vanishing Points

2020 South Coast Today, Top 10 Most Memorable Art Exhibits for Silver Current

2019 CODA Worx, CODA Top 100 Award for Liquid Shard

2019 Brisbane Times, 10 Best Photos from Around the World for Visions in Motion

2018 Americans for the Arts Public Art Network, Outstanding Public Art Award for Reflection Rising

2018 CODA Worx, CODA Top 100 Award for Reflection Rising

2012 U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Renewable Energy Demonstration Grant for Aztec Pavillion

2010 Black Rock Solar, Honorarium Grant for Solar Sunflowers

2009 Black Rock Arts Foundation, Honorarium Grant for Holding Flame

2006 Black Rock Arts Foundation, Honorarium Grant for Venus Flytrap

1997 Television Academy, Primetime Emmy Award Nomination for Outstanding Special Visual Effects for 3rd Rock from the Sun (1996)

Major Sculptural Commissions & Installations

2026 Denver Arts & Venues, Denver, CO, Quaking Gold

2026 Downtown Denver Partnership, Denver, CO, Skyline Drift

2026 Downtown Denver Partnership, Denver, CO, Sun Splash

2026 Aspen Ideas Festival, Aspen, CO, Chasing Zenith

2026 Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs, AR, Where the Wind Lives

2026 San Antonio Botanical Garden, San Antonio, TX, OtherWild

2025 Green Box, Green Mountain Falls, CO, Off the Beaten Path

2025 Home of the Arts, Gold Coast, Australia, Cloud Play

2025 Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, PA, Momentum

2025 Denver Public Art, Denver, CO, Aspen Light

2025 Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta, GA, Enchanted Trees by Poetic Kinetics

2024 University of Colorado, Colorado Springs–Galleries of Contemporary Art, Colorado Springs, CO, Psycullescence

2024 Burning Man Arts Festival, Black Rock City, NV, Sky Gazing

2024 New England Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA, Flora in Flight

2023 Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta, GA, Skyline Frost

2023 Burning Man Arts Festival, Black Rock City, NV, Vanishing Points

2022 Let’s DMZ Peace Art Festival, Imingak, South Korea, Visions in Motion

2022 MixC Nanjing, Nanjing, China, Eternal Flutter

2021 Hong Kong Design Centre, Hong Kong, China River of Light

2021 Atlanta Botanical Garden, Atlanta, GA, Dream Flora

2020 Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, CA, Sunset Trace

2019 Emaar, Dubai Creek Harbour, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Moments in Flight

2019 Emaar, Dubai Creek Harbour, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Skyline Stream

2019 Shibuya Scramble Square, Tokyo, Japan, Neo Cloud

2019 Kulturprojekte for State of Berlin, Berlin, Germany, Visions in Motion

2019 Design and Technology Museum of Massachusetts, New Bedford, MA, Silver Current

2019 Wang Fu Central, Beijing, China, Sun Cycle

2019 Union Station Kansas City, Kansas City, KS, Reflecting Motion

2019 Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival, Indio, CA, Overview Effect

2019 Freeport Lisboa Fashion Outlet, Lisbon, Portugal, Dream Waves

2018 Freeport Lisboa Fashion Outlet, Lisbon, Portugal, School of Breeze

2018 Los Angeles Arts Commission and Los Angeles Department of Beaches & Harbors, Marina del Rey, CA, Sunset Vestige

2018 Aspire Zone Park, Doha, Qatar, Tributary in Flight

2018 White Night Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia, Liquid Sky

2017 Scottsdale Arts, Scottsdale, AZ, Reflection Rising

2017 Olympus Perspective Playground, Berlin, Germany, Neo Prayer Flag

2017 New Holland Island, St. Petersburg, Russia, Firebird Descent

2017 Saatchi & Saatchi for Toyota Mirai, Los Angeles, CA

2016 Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra at Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, CA, Nimbus

2016 Pershing Square, Los Angeles County Dept. of Recreation & Parks, Los Angeles, CA, Liquid Shard

2016 Burning Man Arts Festival, Black Rock City, NV, Fire in Balance in the Round

2015 Science Museum of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MI, Astronaut

2015 Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival, Indio, CA, Caterpillar's Longing

2014 Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival, Indio, CA, Escape Velocity

2014 Burning Man Arts Festival, Black Rock City, NV, Fire in Balance

2013 Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival, Indio, CA, Helix Poeticus and Mantis Temple

2012 City of El Paso, El Paso, TX, Aztec Pavilion

2012 Electric Daisy Carnival, London, United Kingdom, Electric Daisy

2012 Electric Daisy Carnival, Las Vegas, NV, Electric Daisy

2012 Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival, Indio, CA, Solitary Inflorescence

2011 Sundance Film Festival, Salt Lake City, UT, Sorel Pagoda

2011 Chalk the Block Festival, El Paso, TX, Holding Flame

2011 O2 Creative for Toyota Camry, Worldwide Launch, Los Angeles, CA

2011 Electric Daisy Carnival, Las Vegas, NV, Electric Daisy

2010 The Exploratorium Science Museum & Black Rock Solar, San Francisco, CA, Solar Sunflowers

2009 Burning Man, Black Rock City, NV, Holding Flame (co-designer)

2009 Toyota Prius, Major Cities, USA, Prius Solar Lounge

2008 Johnson & Johnson, Beijing Olympic Games, Beijing, China, Warrior and the Girl

2006 Burning Man, Black Rock City, NV, Hope Flower

2006 Lexus, Chicago, IL

2005 Burning Man, Black Rock City, NV, Hope Flower

2005 Burning Man, Black Rock City, NV, Venus Flytrap

Selected Articles, Reviews and Interviews

2025 News Break, "Stainless steel Aspen trees sporting $1.6 million price tag planned for 16th Street Mall" " April 7.

2025 Pikes Peak Courier, "Here it comes! The Green Box Arts Festival" March 31.

2024 The Denver Gazette, "Burning Man, Coachella, Olympics installation artist to hold first gallery show in Colorado Springs" Nov 17.

2024 KRDO 13 News, "World-renowned artist returns to hometown Colorado Springs for art show" Nov 13.

2024 KOAA News, "Poetic Kinetics: Black Forest artist shares large-scale creativity with the world" Sept 4.

2024 The Gazette, “Former Colorado Springs resident's art featured in Hollywood, at Olympics, Burning Man, Coachella” Aug 7.

2024 Boston Globe, “Patrick Shearn’s ‘Skynet’ takes flight at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill in Boylston” June 24.

2021 Atlanta Journal Constitution, "SUPERnatural installation brightens days at Atlanta Botanical Garden" May 28.

2020 Los Angeles Times, “‘Sunset Trace’ brightens day for attendees of Laguna Art Museum’s Art & Nature” Nov 6.

2019 Colossal, “120,000 Ribbons Wave Across the Former Footprint of the Berlin Wall in an Installation Marking 30 Years Since the Peaceful Revolution” Nov 13.

2019 The New York Times, “Over 100,000 Celebrate 30 years since Fall of Berlin Wall” Nov 10. .

2019 Mashable, “The Berlin Wall broke a city in two. 30 years after it fell, a floating sculpture celebrates unity” Nov 8.

2019 Smithsonian, “Thirty Years After Fall of Berlin Wall, a Citywide Celebration” Aug 29.

2019 The Art Newspaper, “Berlin celebrates fall of the wall with art installations, projections and an app” Aug 27.

2019 Art & Object, “The Moving Installations of Poetic Kinetics” Jul 26.

2019 Kansas City Star, “‘Reflecting Motion’: Meet the artist behind the amazing installation at Union Station” Jun 11.

2019 Hyperallergic, "The Massachusetts Design Art and Technology Institute Kicks Off Their City-Wide Collaborative Venture, Summer Winds." May 7.

2017 PBS, "Scottsdale public art work, 'Reflection Rising'," December 17.

2017 AZ Central, “What is that giant rainbow kite sculpture at the Scottsdale Waterfront canal?” Nov 24.

2017 Mashable, “Design studio creates a giant wave-like art installation that's suspended in midair.” August 3.

2016 KCRW, Design and Architecture, “Patrick Shearn’s ‘Nimbus’ takes over Walt Disney Concert Hall.” October 4.

2016 The Los Angeles Times, “‘Liquid Shard’ art installation makes waves in Pershing Square.” August 6.

2016 Architectural Digest, “See a Silvery Art Installation Flutter over L.A.’s Pershing Square.” August 3.