

PASADENA STAR-NEWS

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Art in the digital age



Walt Mancini Staff Photographer

"Separated United Forms," a public art installation at the Huntington Pavilion, was commissioned by the city and created by David Schafer. The 3,000-pound pieces, seen here earlier this month, were formally unveiled Monday.

Sculptures created using high-tech method

By Janette Williams Staff Writer

PASADENA — Wielding the same hand-held 3D body scanner that doctors use, artist David Schafer "reorganized" a Henry Moore marble figure, creating a digital image for the monumental cast bronzes just installed as the city's newest piece of public art.

"Separated United Forms," based on Moore's 1966 "Reclining Form" in the Norton Simon Museum's collections, was created using a high-tech process the iconic sculptor probably never imagined.

And it's no accident that the \$300,000, 3,000-pound pieces — which were formally unveiled Monday — are placed in front of the new Huntington Pavilion, facing California Boulevard on the grounds of Huntington Hospital.

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Artist DAVID SCHAFFER

"By staging a body, a 'reorganized' body, at a hospital, it allows the observer to bring the body out of the hospital, so to speak," said Schafer, a former Art Center College of Design faculty member, who spent more than three years on the project.

"I hope that people in and around the hospital enjoy coming out to experience something in 3D — round, physical, vital — and can enjoy their own invention of what those forms are," Schafer said from New York City, where he moved in 2007 after a decade at Art Center.

Before leaving, Schafer approached the Norton Simon for access to the Moore sculpture, which the museum officials hope soon to bring out of storage and display.

"He said he was very much an admirer of Henry Moore — and that he was interested in the kind of work that would be an homage to him," said Carol Togneri, the museum's chief curator. "He explained he was an artist who utilized scientific methods, and we hesitantly, curiously, said yes."

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