



Patrick Shearn

- American, based in Los Angeles
- Background in massive pieces at festivals like Coachella and Electric Daisy → sculptural, play with light
- Currently focuses on kinetic sculptures that evoke the natural world while using man-made materials
- Founder of Poetic Kinetics, an artist collective with roots in the film industry
- His series “Skynets” comprises of multiple projects involving holographic streamers hanging from nets



Escape Velocity
Coachella
2014

Liquid Shard



- Created in Pershing Square in Downtown LA
- Shearn was commissioned by the LA Parks and Recreation Dept and Now Art LA as a way to support more public art in the city
- Shearn is LA-based → Pershing Square is an iconic and central location in his city
- Ease of motion and gentleness contrasts the hustle-and-bustle below
- Busy neighborhood but wide expanse of space → visually stunning next to skyscrapers; able to view from below and above
- “We wanted to have the piece in downtown LA, to showcase it in a space where there are a lot of people gathering, and where it would have a strong architectural and spacial impact,” said Carmen Zella, co-founder of Now Art LA. “Pershing Square was the perfect fit.”

Hey! I'm from LA!

- I personally experienced the Liquid Shard → incredible lightness of movement despite seeming to be metal
- A piece truly made for the public of LA → commissioned by the city
- Very popular on social media

“Not exactly sure what it is, why it's here or who put it there but Pershing Square was shimmering today,’ said nkao in an Instagram post. In another post, danaworkman said, ‘The real magic happens when the wind kicks up, launching it into a beautiful rolling wave across #pershingsquare.’”

-Erica Evans, *Los Angeles Times*

Inspiration

““The inspiration comes from observing nature and the feeling that we are only aware on a very surface level of what is really going on around us. Unexpected things revealed in time-lapse or hyper-spectrum photography fascinate me. Like fractals recurring progressively, we feel the currents of air on our skin but do not see the larger movements. I wanted to play in that realm with this piece.”- Patrick Shearn

Materials

- Made from thousands of pieces of holographic mylar attached to a bungee cord net
- Assembled by Shearn and 12 students from the Architectural Association Visiting School (mostly from foreign countries), modeled originally in 3-D (Shearn says his background in construction for movie sets helps)
- Surprise comes from the incredible movement and metallic quality that comes from the materials
- Constant surprise → changes in the wind so a new experience every time



Conclusion

- Effective use of community resources → supports a local artist and can be seen by millions of Angelenos and visitors over its time
- Blends together inspiration from its location (viewable from different angles, comments on the busy nature of downtown LA as well as proximity to the ocean)
- Achieves stunning visuals