New art installed along Ocean Avenue

By Alexandra Seltzer - Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

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BOYNTON BEACH —

Boynton Beach's Ocean Avenue got a new look this week as artists from in and out of the state installed their artwork along the avenue.

The art is part of the new Avenue of the Arts exhibit that replaces the outdoor kinetic exhibit. The artists started installing Wednesday.



Alley Dudes by Beju LeJobart. Photo courtesy: Boynton Beach

"It's refreshing. You get new art every year," said Debby Coles-Dobay, the city's Public Arts manager.

The Avenue exhibit kicks off Friday with a reception at the Civic Center, 128 E. Ocean Ave. The public is invited to attend, and meet this year's artists.



Invasive Species by Isabelle Garbani. Photo courtesy: Boynton Beach

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The Avenue of the Arts, mainly on Ocean Avenue between Seacrest Boulevard and Federal Highway, is in its ninth year and was one of the first programs established in the Art in Public Places program. Every year new art is installed along Ocean. The exhibit was first established to attract visitors and connect business to the east Boynton area and downtown area, which is under development.

In 2013, Boynton brought into the mix the International Kinetic Art Exhibit and Symposium, which is a biennial event. The event was most recently held this year in <u>February</u> and mainly features art in motion installed in the area.

For this year's Avenue of the Arts exhibit, artists from throughout the country, including Virginia, North Carolina, New York and New Jersey, submitted their artwork to the city's Arts Commission. The commission then selected eleven pieces from nine artists.



Seed Love Grows Large by Steve Blackwood. Photo courtesy: City of Boynton Beach

Art pieces include "Alley Dudes" by Beju LeJobart, which is made of colorful stainless steel and wood. Also, Isabelle Garbani's "Invasive Species" will be on display. The piece is made of over 5,000 crocheted kudzu leaves made from recycled plastic. Steve Blackwood's "Seed Love Grows Large," made of painted fiberglass resin reinforced with steel, also made the cut.

Click here to take a virtual tour of the exhibit.