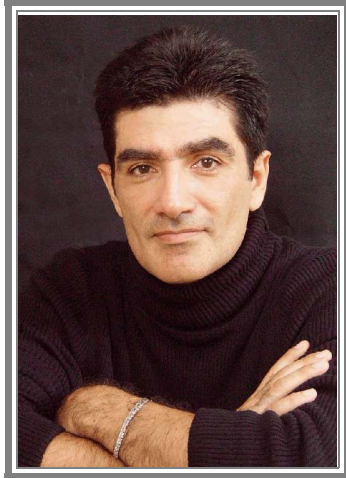


Avera

McKennon Hospital & University Health Center

SculptureWalk 2010



By Greta Stewart

Love. Family. Harmony. Life. Those were the inspiration for Gus Ocamposilva's sculpture on display at the Avera McKennon SculptureWalk, entitled, "Nest."

The Colombian artist, who works as a team with his wife, Lina, mainly create and install colorful sculptures around the world, including Spain, Germany, Canada, and the U.S. Gus studied Murals at Massana School of Barcelona and painting procedures at Barcelona University, Spain.

Ocamposilva's art works are an interpretation of the world in he was raised; the Andes and the Tropic, a world filled with a great diversity of colors. He says he wants to show in his works the passion for life and colors, magic and poetry. His artworks have a high Latin American influence and through time they have been fed with his experiences as a student in Europe and now as a resident of the Clearwater, Fla. "I love nature and birds," he says. "I love the concept of giving life. In 'Nest,' I think the colors are representative of all things in nature. Green represents the forest, yellow represents the sun, or brightness, and blue is water or rain," he explained.

Self-described as "green artists," Ocamposilva says he is excited to have "Nest" on display at Avera McKennon and hopes people get the message that our environment is worth saving. "I hope people become more in touch with nature," he says. "We tend to forget about it but nature has a variety of abstract things to offer. I just hope it makes people respect it, and be a friend."

"Nest" stands just over two feet tall and was created out of welded steel and painted with enamels. Ocamposilva says it took him and his wife three or four months to design the sculpture and then it took another three months or so to get it all welded together and finally painted.

Ocamposilva and his wife express their artistic abilities through more than just sculpture; they also use the human body as art. Body paint is their latest artistic expression. "It's an extension of my art where I use the human body as a three dimensional canvas," he says. "We want to elevate the simple concept of body painting to fine art photography--recreating the human landscape with colors, to tell the world stories and to denounce important environmental issues."

