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neighborhood news

By Heather Cheron May 15-2014

JEFFERSON PARK — A 10-foot tall aluminum sculpture depicting two lovers swirled in a colorful embrace will be installed at Lawrence and Milwaukee avenues as part of this year's Chicago Sculpture Exhibit, organizers said. The sculpture festival, which is designed to bring art to Chicago's neighborhoods, will expand from Lincoln Park, Lakeview and Bucktown to include Jefferson Park and Portage Park for the first time, said Eric Craig, one of the exhibit's organizers and a member of the 45th Ward Arts Advisory Committee.

Created by Gus and Lina Ocamposilva, the sculpture "Twin Souls" was the unanimous choice of the Jefferson Park sculpture selection committee of all the works picked by the sculpture festival judges, Craig said.

That committee was made up of Ald. John Arena (45th); George Karzas of the Gale Street Inn restaurant; Demetrios "Jimmy" Kozonis of Mega Group, a real estate development firm, and representatives of the Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce, Craig said. The sculpture will be installed at 8 a.m. May 29 in a small plaza on the southeast corner of Lawrence and Milwaukee outside a CVS drugstore. Cyd Smillie, Arena arts liaison, said the sculpture would "make a big difference on that corner."



"Art elevates wherever it is," Smillie said.

The Ocamposilvas, a Florida-based husband-and-wife team, have exhibited their "monumental metal" sculptures throughout the world, including in East River Park in New York City.

Chicago is one of the couple's favorite cities because of its love of public art, Gus Ocamposilva said. The couple will drive the sculpture, created especially for the Chicago Sculpture Exhibit, to Chicago themselves and install it.

The sculpture is a "symbol of love" that features two abstract figures hugging, Lina Ocamposilva said.

"I hope people who see it will feel our passion for life and bring their own experiences with love and feel connected to something bigger than they are," Lina Ocamposilva said.

The sculpture's splashes of red and green were inspired by Gus Ocamposilva's native Colombia, he said. "I can't imagine life without color," Gus Ocamposilva said.