

Whirling in the wind

Ten unique kinetic sculptures that bring mesmerizing motion to your outdoor space

By Adriene Biondo

ONE OF THE MOST UNDERRATED joys of indoor-outdoor living is creating spaces where we can unwind and daydream, and think about, well, nothing at all.

Installing outdoor art is one way to provide a meditative focal point—but, taking things one step further, a kinetic sculpture doing its thing can be mesmerizing for the entire family.

Designed to rotate in the breeze like a windmill or windsail, a kinetic sculpture can be large or small, and range in price from under \$100 to investment-level artist creations in the thousands of dollars.

Made of copper, bronze, steel, wood, or plastic, there are hundreds of wind sculptures available today—from subtle, natural concepts to the bright and colorful.

For instance, check out the 'Falling Foliage Triple Spinner,' one of our ten featured selections here, a wind sculpture that makes a statement. Delicately balanced to catch the slightest breeze, the Falling Foliage is constructed with stainless-steel ball bearings, and is capable of withstanding winds up to 70 miles per hour, and freezing temperatures too.

Also included are two eloquent sculptures that will complement any mid-century garden, 'Double Helix Sail' and 'Element Water,' both designed by Utah artist Lyman Whitaker, whose custom kinetic art supports an international following.

Speaking of the internationally renowned, if you're interested in experiencing the most dramatic wind-powered sculptures being designed today, check out the amazing work of Anthony Howe at howeart.net.

With model names like 'Octo' and 'Axiom Dyno Trilobite,' Howe's otherworldly art, which incidentally commands sky-high prices, is like nothing you've ever seen before. His large-scale installations can be found all over the world, from Brazil to Dubai to San Francisco, home to his hypnotic 'Spine Tower' metal sculpture.

We hope we've intrigued you with the concept of the wind sculpture as a natural fit for mid-century modern living. Now, let's take a look at ten unique, affordable designs that recently caught our eye.

1 DOUBLE HELIX SAIL

A Lyman Whitaker design, this undulating wind sculpture is constructed of copper and stainless steel. Rated for winds up to 90mph. Available through the renowned Leopold Gallery, in Kansas City, whose amazing inventory includes 80 different wind sculptures. Manufactured in a range of sizes from 79 inches high x 26 inches wide and up. From \$1,000. leopoldgallery.com



2 FALLING FOLIAGE SPINNER

The 'Stanwood Falling Foliage Triple Spinner' is a finely balanced and maintenance-free sculpture. Made of pure copper with brass hardware, allow the finish to develop a natural

patina outdoors or maintain its shine with a lacquer finish. Structure stands 84 inches high, with spinner portion measuring 33 inches high. Weather-proof. Lifetime warranty. \$319. stanwoodimports.com



3 METAL SPIRAL SPINNER

Impressive at over nine feet high, 15 arms form a spiral that extends out to 30 inches in diameter. Blue and copper-colored vanes catch the wind and set this dynamic spinner spinning in even a gentle breeze. 112.5 inches high. Includes five-prong metal stake to secure the sculpture into the ground. \$259. windandweather.com

4 LEAVES ON A STAKE

A handmade copper-and-steel wind sculpture featuring a natural theme. Finish is created with a hand-applied



chemical patina. Internal ball bearings allow the spinner to move freely as it catches the wind. Copper spinner is 19 inches wide x 18 inches high. Structure stands approximately 72 inches high. \$126. hughesmetals/etsy.com



5 DANCING WILLOW LEAVES

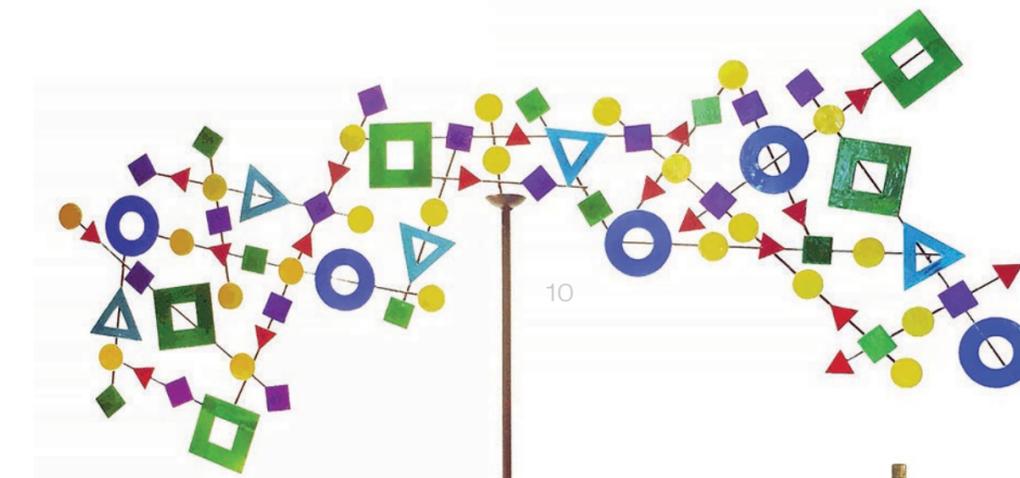
Meticulously crafted without middlemen, this jumbo kinetic dual spinner's wheels measure 36 inches across, on a structure that stands 108 inches high. The unit is delicately balanced, durable, and weatherproof. Constructed

appropriate for any landscape, and suitable for all types of weather, even extreme heat and cold. 87 inches high x 35 inches wide. Comes with a steel ground mount, poles, and instruction kit for simple installation. \$2,150. worthingtongallery.com

6 COUNTERPOINT

'Counterpoint' is a modern sculpture designed by Lyman Whitaker that is

of pure copper with brass hardware. Copper leaves and arms will naturally develop a patina. Easy to assemble. Honored by Stanwood's lifetime warranty. \$669. stanwoodimports.com



7 BALANCED ARCH ROCK CAIRN

This calming, Asian-inspired 'Zen Garden Balanced Arch Rock Cairn' sculpture remains stable in any weather. Ideal for a Japanese rock garden, patio, or lawn. Arching steel with a disc that catches the breeze at one end, and has a smooth rock at the other. Arch is 24 inches wide; overall



height 48 inches. Five-star seller. \$149. aurawaterfalls/etsy.com

8 BLUE LOTUS

Standing 86 inches high x 25 inches wide, the colorful 'Blue Lotus' has a majestic presence. The sculpture is hand-made, and the blue, green, and gold petals are powder-coated. Sealed ball-bearing construction for smooth rotation and long-lasting operation. Heavy-duty gauge pole resists bending in the wind. Five-star seller. \$189. robinnesters/etsy.com

9 ELEMENT WATER

Another wind sculpture from the Leopold Gallery is 'Element Water,' designed by Lyman Whitaker, who has been



producing wind spinners since 1987. This artful grouping of four motion sculptures made of copper and steel can withstand winds up to 90mph. 56 inches high x 29 inches wide. \$550. leopoldgallery.com

10 ANIMATED ART ON A STICK

Here's a multi-colored, geometric piece that easily catches the breeze. A simple design that cleverly pivots on one point. Constructed of iron with a painted finish. Ground stake included. 40 inches wide x 40 inches high. Handcrafted. Free ground shipping. Five-star seller. \$65. bugstoredesigns/etsy.com

Photography: courtesy wind sculpture product manufacturers