

**Collection in Focus**  
**NED KAHN**

February 3–April 10, 2016

“I’ve always been attracted to the idea of making visible things that are invisible.” —Ned Kahn

Ned Kahn’s playful and mysterious artworks emerge from a confluence of science and art. Inspired by atmospheric physics, geology, astronomy, and fluid motion, Kahn seeks to enable viewers to observe and interact with natural processes. Flowing water, fog, sand, and light feature prominently throughout the artist’s work to create complex and ever changing systems. His indoor and outdoor installations work to frame and enhance our perception of natural phenomena.

This presentation highlights works by Kahn from the di Rosa collection, including two key sculptures that have not been exhibited in over 10 years. ***Chaotic Pendulum*** (1985) consists of four deceptively simple sets of pendulums linked together at human scale. Defying the predictive powers of physics, Kahn’s device upends our intuitions and creates a whimsical mechanism that prompts us to come up with our own theories around its movement and capabilities. **Visitors are invited to twist the sculpture’s central protruding knob to bring the work to life and observe its chaotic, complex, and long-lived motion.**

***Abyssal Storm I*** (2003), a rotating metal sculpture with a mixture of glass beads and water, captures the deep sea phenomenon of abyssal storms—sudden, powerful currents which stir up sediments and sea creatures along the ocean floor. Kahn brings this natural occurrence—something typically only viewable by scientists and researchers—into the gallery space. **By rotating the sculpture’s steel armature and internal oval disk, visitors can set the sand-like matter into swirling action.**

In addition to these two works, visitors can view other weather-inspired pieces by Kahn permanently on display at di Rosa. In our Gatehouse Gallery silo, visitors are invited to interact with ***Cloud Rings*** (1995) by pushing circles of fog up toward the sky, and watch the various flowing patterns of ***Magma Chamber*** (n.d.) emerge—created by the injection of air into columns filled with glass particles.

Located in di Rosa’s Sculpture Meadow is Kahn’s ***Wind House*** (2003), a site-specific sculpture consisting of four walls composed of thousands of small, anodized aluminum panels hinged to move freely in

the wind. Viewable by looking up from the Sculpture Meadow or by participating in di Rosa’s monthly Outdoor Sculpture Tour, the work looks different each time it is viewed, depending the light, the breeze, and one’s perspective.

Text by Curator Amy Owen & Curatorial Assistant Kara Q. Smith

This exhibition is underwritten by Silverpoint Cellars. *Collection in Focus* is an ongoing exhibition series highlighting important and often understudied objects from di Rosa’s permanent collection that would otherwise remain in storage.

**Exhibition Checklist:**

***Abyssal Storm I***, 2003

Steel, water, Plexiglas, and glass beads, 65 x 50 x 36 in.

***Wind House***, 2003

Stainless steel and aluminum, 192 x 336 x 192 in.

***Cloud Rings***, 1995

Aluminum, plastic, and fog machine, 34 x 60 in.

***Chaotic Pendulum***, 1985

Steel and Plexiglas, 69.5 x 51 x 20 in.

***Magma Chamber***, n.d.

Mixed media and light, 64 x 27 x 27 in.

All works from the di Rosa collection, Napa.

**Public Program:**

**Ned Kahn in Conversation**

Saturday, March 19, 2016, 4-6 PM

Ned Kahn joins Renny Pritikin, chief curator of San Francisco’s Contemporary Jewish Museum, in conversation to explore Kahn’s unique practice and methodology. \$10 / \$5 Members.



Ned Kahn, *Wind House*, 2003