

Friday, May 26, 2000

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# Weekend

WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN YOUR FREE TIME

The Star Press

## Natural



Contemporary sculptures  
sprout on campus



*"The essence of my work lies in balancing the tension between surviving and vanishing. To my work, this is the seed of inspiration... capable of bringing new life."*  
— Zigi Ben-Haim, artist

## Wonders

By MICHELLE KINSEY  
The Star Press

If you're not careful, you might miss one. Ball State University's quadrangle was recently transformed into a grassy art gallery, where Zigi Ben-Haim's contemporary outdoor sculptures have become part of the landscape, scattered among the buildings and trees.

The traveling exhibition "Zigi Ben-Haim: Journey With Me" has landed on campus and features 12 of his works (thanks to the International Art and Artists of Washington, D.C.)

A 13th sculpture, an aluminum and acrylic piece titled *Out of the Window*, was damaged recently and removed from the exhibit.

The show will be presented by the Ball State Museum of Art through mid-September.

Ben-Haim's multimetal, multimedia works combine contradictory elements, merging eternal organic forms with contemporary concepts. His pieces "explore life's interactive forces, the migration of people and anachronistic adaptation for survival."

Ben-Haim experiments with a variety of media and materials, from copper and concrete to steel mesh and acrylic urethane.

Many of the pieces appear to be moving, or even growing.

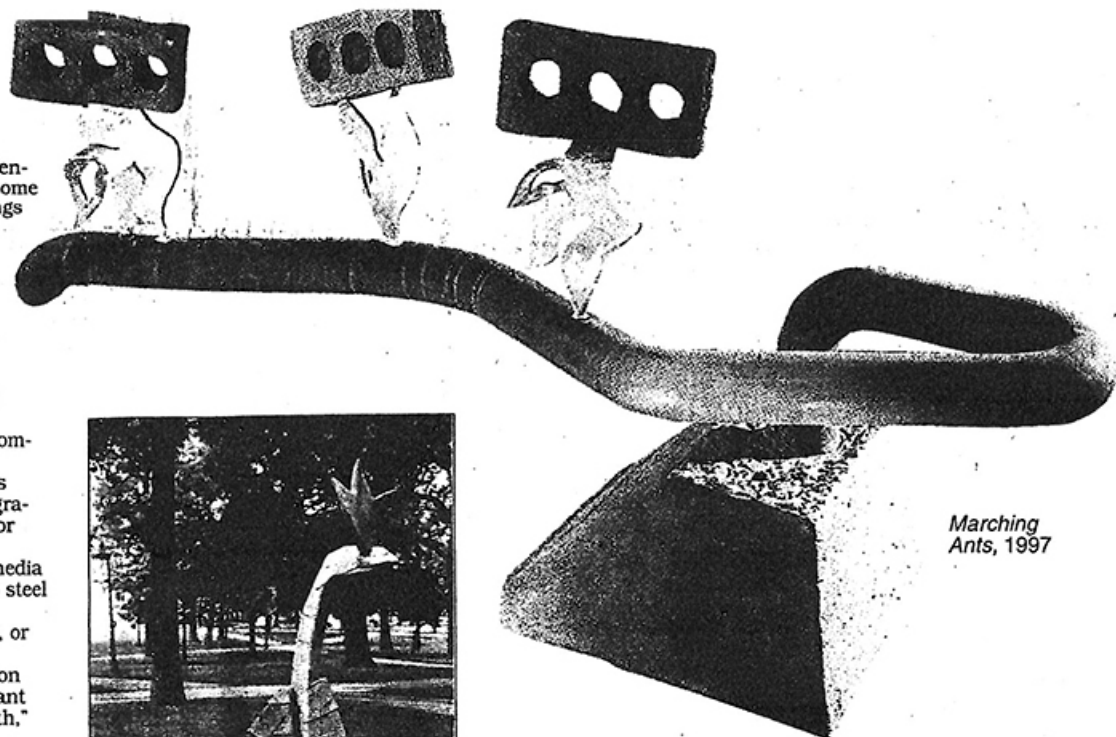
"Everything calls attention to the motion implied by the sculpture's twisting, vibrant shapes and their sense of organic growth," writes art critic Phyllis Braff. "Certain works actually seem to be gesturing toward neighboring buildings."

Nature is most evident. A "leaf" shows up in many of the pieces in this exhibit. A single red leaf rests on the arm of *OK Tail*, near the Administration and Burkhardt buildings. In *Marching Ants*, three leaf-contoured pieces "carry" brick-like weights.

The show's largest sculpture is *The Fall* (more than 10 feet tall), made of steel and copper. All of the pieces in this exhibit were created between 1984 and 1997.

*Bubble  
Rush, 1984*

See **WALKING** on Page 4D



*Marching  
Ants, 1997*



Photos provided

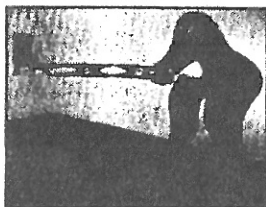
**ART:** *OK Tail* (left), a 1996 sculpture by Zigi Ben-Haim, is part of a walking exhibit on the quad at Ball State University. Thirteen works by Ben-Haim were part of the exhibit, but one was removed after being damaged.

Use our tour guide as you view  
the art of Zigi Ben-Haim  
on the Ball State University quad.  
Page 4D

# Touring the art of Zigi Ben-Haim

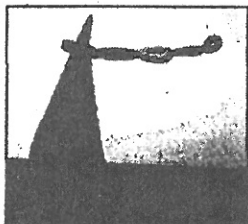
Scattered throughout the campus quad area of Ball State University are the contemporary sculptures of Zigi Ben-Haim. The artwork was inspired by a discovery of a branch growing out of a rock found in Arizona in 1975. Ben-Haim sculptures are known for their visual power with the use of curves, bends, points and angles. Here is a guide to the sculptures:

1



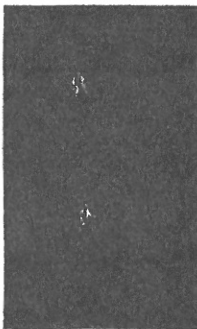
**Level with Me, Sr., 1997**  
Stainless steel mesh, concrete, stainless steel and plastic tubing.

2



**Bubble Rush, 1984**  
Steel, galvanized steel mesh, oxidized copper and concrete.

3



**Inside Growth, 1997**  
Galvanized steel mesh, aluminum, concrete, and acrylic urethane.

4



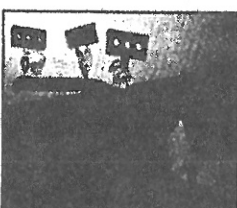
**Roaring Balls, 1989**  
Stainless steel mesh, stainless steel, rubber wheels and oil paint.

5



**The Fall, 1989**  
Stainless steel mesh, oxidized copper and stainless steel.

6



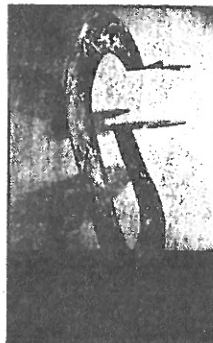
**Marching Ants, 1997**  
Stainless steel, concrete, steel and brass.

7



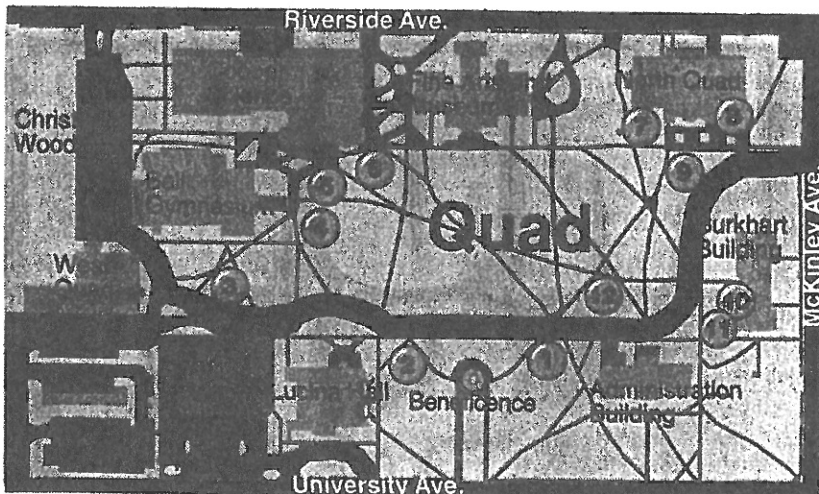
**Walking Tall, 1997**  
Aluminum and acrylic urethane.

8

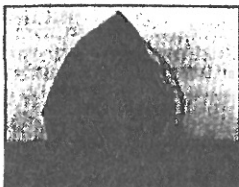


**Air Pressure, 1997**  
Aluminum and acrylic urethane.

9



5



**Spike Hole, 1989**  
Steel wire mesh, oil paint, steel, oxidized copper tubing.

**Around the Touch, 1996**  
Stainless steel mesh, concrete, oxidized copper and stainless steel.

**OK Tail, 1996**  
Stainless steel mesh, concrete, oxidized copper and stainless steel.

Source: Ball State University Museum of Art

Jan Gaff / The Star Press

## Walking exhibit a force of nature

Continued from Page 1D

In a catalog of Ben Haim's work, available at the Ball State Museum of Art, it is noted that Ben-Haim found inspiration for his work in the chance discovery of a slender, curving branch growing out of a stone.

Ben-Haim was born Nov. 28, 1945, in Baghdad, Iraq. He

emigrated to the United States in 1951 and now lives and works in New York City.

His sculptures have appeared in solo and group exhibitions and collections across the United States and in Europe and Israel. Collections include New York's Guggenheim Museum and Jewish Museum, the National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C., and the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Ben-Haim has received grants from the Pollock Krasner Foundation and National Endowment for the Arts, and he has a master of fine arts degree from San Francisco State University.

## Art museum

The Ball State University Museum of Art is open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 1:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The museum is closed Monday and July 4 for holidays. Admission is free. Information: (765) 285-5242.