

"Inside Growth," 1997, comprises galvanized steel mesh, aluminum, concrete and acrylic urethane. It is located south of Ball Gymnasium.

"OK Tail," 1996, is located north of the Administration Building and comprises galvanized steel mesh, oxidized copper, aluminum and concrete.



While the Art Museum undergoes renovation, sculptor Zigi Ben-Haim's 'Journey with Me' exhibit graces the Quadrangle

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As fall approaches and Ball State is once again in session, those passing through the quadrangle will notice the metallic shimmer of the sculptures of renowned artist Zigi Ben-Haim adorning the area.

The traveling exhibition "Zigi Ben-Haim: 'Journey With Me'" showcases eight of the artist's most recent works and will be on display until mid-September. The exhibit is hosted by the Ball State Museum of Art, currently partially closed due to renovations.

"This exhibit is something important to make a whole of the museum," said Museum Director Alain Joyaux. "The works on display allow people an opportunity to consider something else within their life."

Ben-Haim's sculpture combines contradictory elements, pairing eternal organic forms with contemporary concepts. Ben-Haim says his pieces explore life's interactive forces, the migration of people and anachronistic adaptation for survival.

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

The individual pieces are made of such remote materials as steel mesh, concrete and aluminum. With these combined elements, the works feature contrasting tones, such as softness and toughness as well as natural and urban.

According to Joyaux, the contrast in Ben-Haim's work lies between the living and the man-made.

"The pieces are almost anthropomorphic," Joyaux said. "They place nature and that place between something alive and dead, and then the space in between. Though many are animal and human forms, they remind one of something non-biological."

The Ben-Haim sculptures currently on display date from 1989 to Works near the Administration and Burkhardt buildings include "Tail" as well as the futuristic "Air Pressure" and "Walking Tail."

"Around the Touch" and "The Fall" can be found located by North Nearby, "Without Neighbors," "Spike Hole" and "Roaring Balls" can be beside Ball Gymnasium and the Cooper Science buildings.

The combination of cold, minimalist forms with warm human elements sets each work apart from other sculptors' work. According to Joyaux, the experimental nature of Ben-Haim's work lends itself well to individual interpretation and allows for a unique experience.

"The added information and added input presented by the sculpture allow viewers one more part of wholeness as a person," Joyaux said.

A native of Iraq, Ben-Haim lives and works in New York City. His sculptures have made appearances in individual and group exhibitions throughout the United States, as well as Europe and Israel. Ben-Haim has received grants from the Pollock Krasner Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has a master of fine arts degree from San Francisco State University.

The Ball State Museum of Art is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Friday and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free.

For further information, call 285-5242.



"Roaring Balls," 1993, is located southeast of the Arts Building and is made of galvanized steel mesh, stainless steel, rubber and oil paint.



"Bubble Rush," 1984, features galvanized steel mesh, oxidized copper and copper. It is located east of Lucina Hall.