The approximately 20 people who attended the July 20th PNWS members and guests meeting at the home studio of PNWS member Craig Dorety saw the light.

And then they saw the raw materials and then the tools.

They learned how this engineering graduate and artist uses innovative technology to make mesmerizing and thought-provoking sculptures that take the art in directions likely to have been imagined by only a few.

As a 2006 graduate of U.C. Davis with a degree in mechanical engineering and previous studies in mathematics and physics and who, along the way, completed a NASA internship in project management and program controls, fine art may seem an unlikely path for this Oakland, Calif., sculptor. Once assembled, they are kinetically illuminated by LED strips that produce thousands of colors in sequence. See them in action online at https://youtu.be/V-ujee0bQ84. Be patient, watch carefully.

CRAIG DORETY'S sculptures, such as these photographed at his studio on July 20th, are meticulously cut by a large computer-controlled table router from various materials including aluminum, wood, plywood, and plastic. Once assembled, they are kinetically illuminated by LED strips that produce thousands of colors in sequence. See them in action online at https://youtu.be/V-ujee0bQ84. Be patient, watch carefully.

Craig Dorety's palette includes 'clean lines, simple shapes... and pure, changing color'

See DORETY: Page 3
Dorety event lives up to expectations; it's time to get ready for Newport show

I had a hunch that the meeting at Craig Dorety’s would be interesting. It was. Craig integrates digitally controlled light into his pieces. Tiny LED lamps can now be obtained in strips and bought by the foot. The individual lamps in the strip can be addressed digitally and programmed to dim, brighten and even change color. In addition—and I am extremely jealous about this—he has a digitally controlled router table. It can even change bits on the fly. He uses this to cut out the shapes that contain the LEDs as well as to model other things. For example, Craig fed it accurate elevation data for the moon, which the machine was able to duplicate in high-density urethane foam. Thanks Craig, that was great.

The annual barbecue is on for August 31st from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Food will be supplied but bring your own beverage. If you are vegetarian or vegan you may want to bring your own eats. Please RSVP to Leland so he can estimate how much food will be needed. Here is his email address lwaltuck@standardsteelnw.com.

Jurying for the Newport show was on the 4th of August. Paul held the newsletter until that date to get any last-minute info. If you submitted something, best of luck to you. As I understand it, the Visual Arts Center and our group juried together by Skype and by sharing images online. How did anything get done before there were computers everywhere?

In other news: All that smoke is Canada burning; it is 93 degrees and headed for 106, Facebook had to shut down an AI routine because it made up its own language and was talking to itself. Plotting our demise no doubt. Sleep well.

Cheers,
George
DORETY: 'A glimpse into space-time'  

Continued from page 1

native. But wait; there’s more.

A suggestion of artistic inclination emerges in Dorety’s curriculum vitae in the late 1990s when, at Cogswell Polytechnical College in the heart of Silicon Valley he was certified in music technology.

In the years since college—Dorety is in his mid-40s now—his work and personal interests have led him up and down California, across America, and across the globe on projects important—ly to do with using modern technology, for example, to relight with LED bulbs iconic landmarks such as Madison Square Park in New York City, a somewhat similar project on part of San Francisco’s famed Market Street, and another at San Diego’s airport where 40,000 LEDs were used to illuminate the terminal with moving imagery.

Amid his professional work, he makes time for extensive personal projects. He writes on his website, “I’ve spent countless hours creating and fabricating a variety of devices including midi controllers, synthesizers, light sculptures and various visual arts pieces.”

Settled in Portland now, Dorety does much of that personal work in his studio which is equipped with a large CNC router with which he fabricates the surfaces he uses in his sculptures. “CNC” is shorthand for “computer numerical control.” This large, computer-controlled table router can perform the functions of several other tools including the panel saw, spindle moulder, and boring machines, among others. The tool can be used with wood, composites, aluminum, plastics, and foams.

Those familiar with the use of any kind of router may be amazed to learn that Dorety can use his big machine to create the detailed cratered surface of moonscapes—Dorety calls them “lunar carvings,” as seen in the photograph in the upper left of page 1 and in another image on this page.

He writes that he learned this technique when he “hacked” a friend’s CNC router in 2012 in Australia where he attended the Perth International Arts Festival.

Dorety writes thoughtfully about his art, what motivates him, and how he works.

“The human brain has some built-in limits beyond which it cannot properly interpret visual information. I use this limit to express the workings of the subconscious…. Clean lines, simple shapes, self-similarity on varying scales, and pure, changing color are my palette; information systems and data-sets are my subject matter.”

He says he uses “mathematics and engineering to formulate physical space-time distortions: displaying static images through time while squeezing and folding the images’ space into 3-dimensional layers.”

He concludes, “I collapse space and remap it onto the time axis. By re-displaying information in this manner, I give the viewer a glimpse into space-time as seen through my eyes.”

Go online to www.craigdorety.com to see lots more of what Dorety sees.

CRAIG DORETY

DORETY created this 'lunar carving' with his CNC router.
PNWS barbecue Aug. 31

The ANNUAL PNWS barbecue is set for 5-7 p.m. on Aug. 31 at Leland Waltuck’s Standard Steel Companies in Portland. Waltuck, a PNWS supporter, sculpture collector, and purveyor of steel to artists as well as local industry, has hosted the gathering for many years. In his new facility, opened last summer, he is able to display his sculpture collection which, he said, includes new pieces this year. In photo at left, PNWS board member and metal sculptor Dave Gonzo studies a large insect sculpture at last summer’s barbecue. In photo above, barbecue-goers pause for the annual barbecue photograph. Waltuck is in the foreground opposite his wife Renie. Guests should bring their own beverage; Waltuck provides the food. Guests may also bring sculptures to share. Standard Steel is located at 1745 NE Columbia Blvd. RSVP to lwaltuck@standardsteelnw.com so Leland knows how much barbecue to buy.

Newport show jurors select 107 sculptures

The jury is in for Pacific Northwest Sculptors’ upcoming show at Newport’s Visual Arts Center in September and October. Jurors representing PNWS and NVAC met via Skype August 4 to review the submissions and make their choice for the show which will run from Sept. 8 through Oct. 29 at the spacious Newport facility.

A total of 25 artists will participate in the show which will feature 107 sculptures.

PNWS board member and program chair Dave Gonzo, who has coordinated planning for the show, said the participating artists will be notified by Aug. 7. The jurors’ meeting and the notification of the artists were each delayed about three days because of scheduling conflicts.

The exhibit will open with a reception on Friday, Sept. 8, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The September-October time frame is especially advantageous owing to likely heavy tourist traffic in Newport for the last good weather of the year and the simultaneous occurrence there of the popular Oregon Coast Jazz Party at the Newport Performing Arts Center in early October.

The Newport Visual Arts Center and the Newport Performing Arts Center are both projects of the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts.

PNWS will collect and transport many of the pieces to Newport. Pieces will be collected at a location where they will be loaded onto a truck. All pieces must be appropriately packed for shipment. Large pieces may require separate arrangements by the artist. Check your email, pnwsculptors.org and this newsletter for updates.

The PNWS members who juried the exhibit included Chas Martin, Craig Dorety, Sue Quast, Joe Cartino and Bogdan Gheorghe.

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