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Here's Looking at You, Bear

40-Foot Blue Bear Sculpture Installed at Convention Center

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JUNE 23, 2005 -- If you have been downtown recently, you may have noticed something new, big and blue. This week, a 40-foot-tall blue bear is being installed at the Colorado Convention Center, completing the much-anticipated public artwork by Lawrence Argent entitled

I See What You Mean.

The enticing cobalt-colored bear evokes a childlike sense of awe and amusement. It can be seen leaning upon the glass front of the Convention Center's 14th Street entrance, pressing muzzle and paws against the glass as it peeks in on conventioners inside the facility.

Fun Bear Facts

- Name:
No nickname, just "The Blue Bear"
- Birthplace:
American Canyon, California
- Materials:
Steel, fiberglass and concrete
- Height:
40 feet
- Weight:
10,000 pounds
- Assembly:

The steel sculpture, encased in a fiberglass and cement composite, was constructed in California by fabricator William Kreysler of William Kreysler Associates.

Brought to Colorado in sections, its appendages were welded and bolted together onsite on top of a concrete pad.

Artist Lawrence Argent is currently an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Denver, where he was awarded the Distinguished Scholar award in 2002. He has described *I See What You Mean* as a stylized representation of native fauna.



Artist rendering of *I See What You Mean*.

25 people to position six bear pieces

- Transportation: Five trucks and 1,238 miles from California to Denver

“My public artworks are part of a larger whole,” stated Lawrence Argent. “I am an artist that utilizes assorted mediums and venues to engage the viewer in questioning the assumed and provide a vehicle by which stimulus opens a plethora of responses that defy verbal articulation.”



Bear construction in California.

United States.

Argent’s other notable public artworks in Colorado include *Gateway* (blades of grass), located on south Broadway in the city of Englewood, and *Whispers* (limestone and bronze lips with interactive sound), located at the south entrance to the Ritchie Wellness Center on the University of Denver campus.

For more information on the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs’ Public Art Program, please call 303-640-6950. Official dedication of the sculpture will take place on July 21.

Written by [John Grant](#), Public Art Program Director, Denver Office of Cultural Affairs; [Pauline Herrera](#), Communications Director, Denver Office of Cultural Affairs; and [Betsy Kimak](#), Internet Site Administrator, Customer Information Services.

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