United States Patent [19]

Powell

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[54] **ART SCULPTURE**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **35/26,** 35/73, 46/26, 161/18

[51] **Int. Cl.** **G09b 1/06**

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 35/26, 73, 7 A, 29 R; 46/26, 31; 161/18, 22, 24; 40/142 A

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An art sculpture is adapted to be assembled from a plurality of components. The art sculpture includes a plurality of geometrically-shaped cutouts adapted to be mounted on a base member by a plurality of mounting pegs of diverse lengths which are secured to the base member and the shaped cutouts. The base member may include a schematic representation of the geometrically-shaped cutouts and a schematic representation of mounting peg locations in order to facilitate in the assembly of the art sculpture.

2 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures

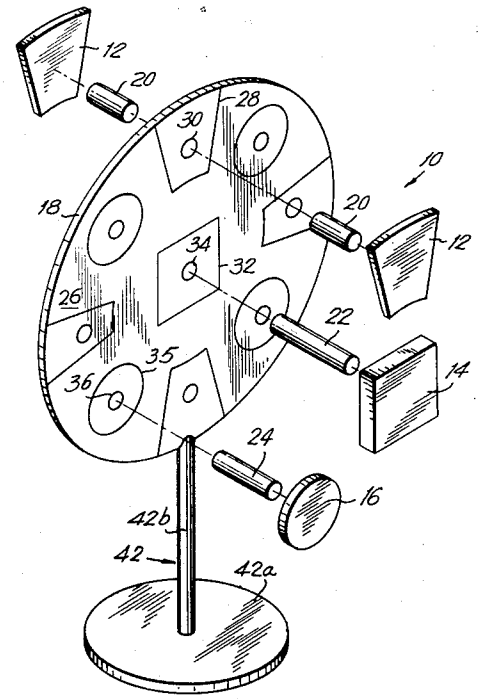


FIG. 1

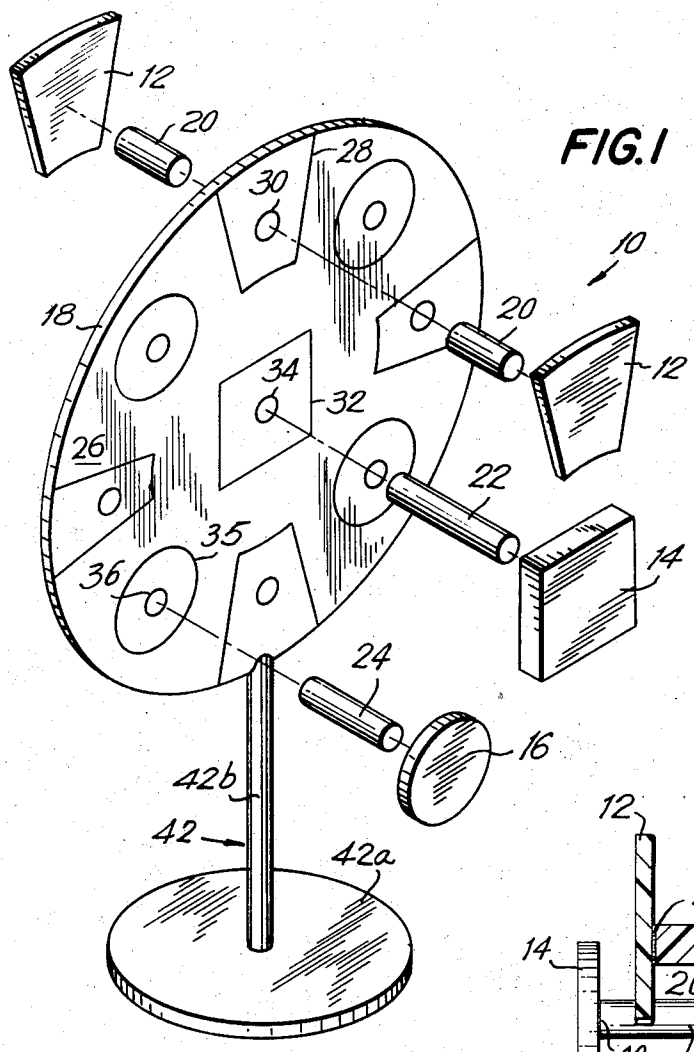


FIG. 2

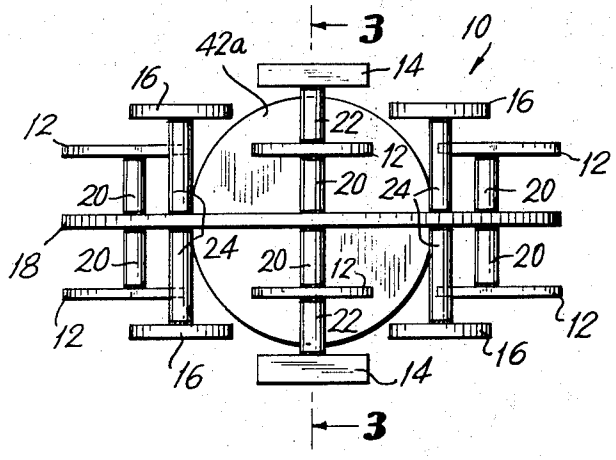


FIG. 3

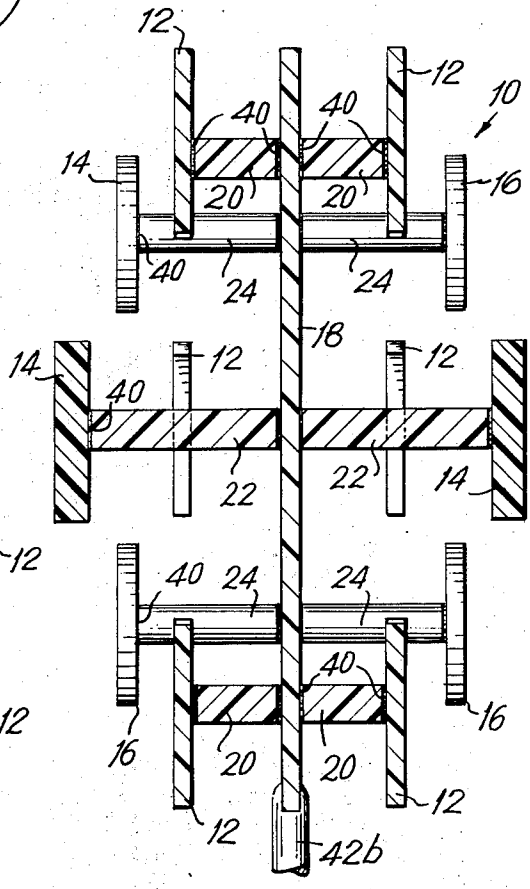


FIG. 4

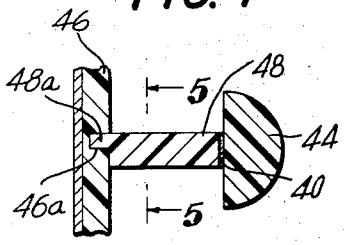


FIG. 5

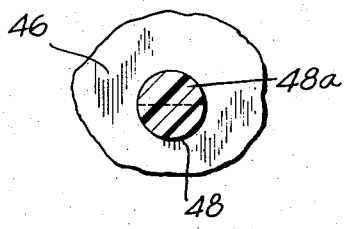


FIG. 6

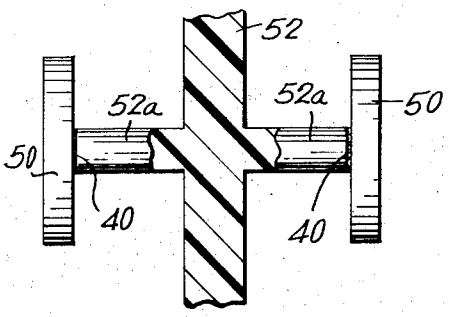


FIG. 7

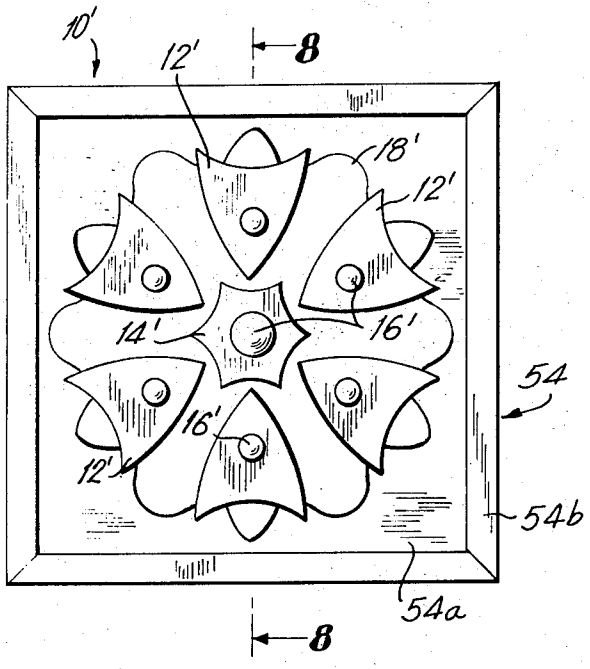
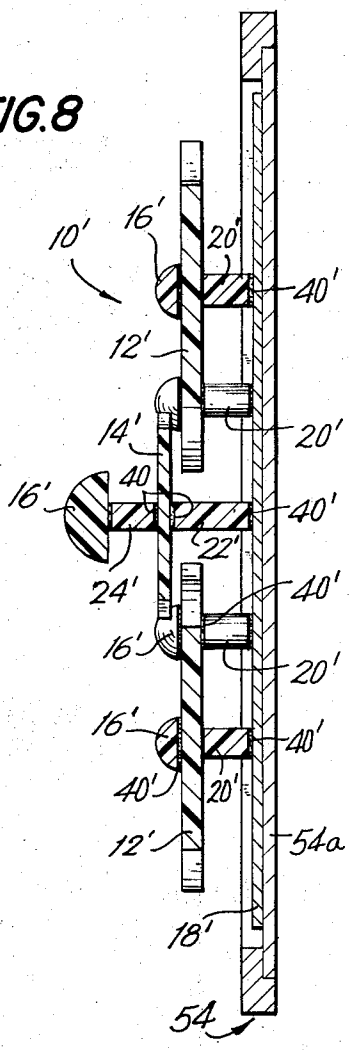


FIG. 8



ART SCULPTURE

This invention relates generally to art forms and, more particularly, to an art sculpture.

With the increase of leisure time, there exists a need in the art to provide an art form which is both pleasing in appearance and which provides enjoyment in the assembly thereof. Although various art forms are on the market which attempt to provide such a structure; these art forms have been less than satisfactory either in their appearance or in the difficulty (or lack thereof) in assembling the same. Further, conventional art forms have been difficult to manufacture on a mass production basis from a standpoint of cost and/or from a standpoint of ease of fabrication.

Accordingly, it is a broad object of the present invention to provide an art sculpture which may be purchased in a disassembled configuration and assembled thereafter.

Another object of this invention is to provide an art sculpture which is pleasing in appearance.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide an art sculpture which provides increased emjoyment in the assembly thereof.

Another object of this invention is to provide an art sculpture which may be manufactured relatively easily and with reduced cost.

For accomplishing these and other objects in accordance with the present invention, an art sculpture is adapted to be assembled from a plurality of components and includes a plurality of geometrically-shaped cutouts adapted to be mounted and secured to a base member. The geometrically-shaped cutouts are mounted and secured to the base member by mounting means, which may take the form of mounting pegs of diverse lengths, which enable the geometrically-shaped cutouts to be mounted on the base member at various planes remote from the plane of the base member. In order to facilitate in the assembly of the art sculpture, the base member may include a schematic representation of the geometrically-shaped cutouts and a schematic representation defining peg-mounting locations.

The above brief description as well as other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will be more fully appreciated by reference to the following detailed description of a preferred, but nonetheless illustrative embodiment of the present invention, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is an exploded, perspective view of an art sculpture according to the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the art sculpture of FIG. 1, but with the art sculpture in an assembled configuration;

FIG. 3 is a partial, sectional view, taken substantially along the line 3—3 of FIG. 2, and looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIG. 4 is a sectional view, enlarged in size, of an alternative embodiment of the present invention which utilizes mounting pegs insertable into the base member;

FIG. 5 is a sectional view, taken substantially along the line 5—5 of FIG. 4, and looking in the direction of the arrows;

FIG. 6 is a partial, sectional view of another embodiment of the present invention in which the mounting pegs are integral with the base member;

FIG. 7 is a front, elevation view of an art sculpture according to another embodiment of the present invention; and,

FIG. 8 is an enlarged, sectional view, taken substantially along the line 8—8 of FIG. 7, and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Referring now to the drawings and, more particularly, to FIGS. 1–3 thereof, an art sculpture according to the present invention is advantageously formed of a molded plastic material and is generally designated 10. Art sculpture 10 is adapted to be assembled from a plurality of components including geometrically-shaped cutouts 12, 14 and 16. By way of example, geometrically-shaped cutout 12 is generally sector-like in configuration; geometrically-shaped cutout 14 is generally rectangular in configuration; and, geometrically-shaped cutout 16 is generally circular in configuration. Further, the geometrically-shaped cutouts may be of diverse thicknesses, for example, geometrically-shaped cutout 14 is somewhat thicker than geometrically-shaped cutout 12. The geometrically-shaped cutouts are adapted to be mounted on a base member 18 which may be generally disk-like and circular in configuration.

The geometrically-shaped cutouts are mounted and secured to base member 18 by mounting means, such as mounting pegs 20, 22 and 24. Specifically, mounting peg 20 is adapted to be secured, at one end thereof, to base member 18 and at the other end thereof to geometrically-shaped cutout 12. In a similar manner, mounting pegs 22 and 24 are adapted to be secured, at one end thereof, to base member 18 and at the other ends thereof to geometrically-shaped cutouts 14 and 16, respectively. Advantageously, the various mounting pegs are of diverse lengths; with mounting pegs 22 being the longest in length, mounting pegs 24 being somewhat shorter in length and mounting pegs 20 being still shorter in length. This provides an art sculpture in which the shaped cutouts are in diverse (albeit parallel) planes relative to the base member. Thus, when art sculpture 10 is assembled, shaped cutouts 12 will lie in a plane substantially parallel to the plane of base member 18 at a distance closest to base member 18. In a similar manner, the shaped cutouts 14 will be equidistant from the plane of base member 18 but will be the farthest of the geometrically-shaped cutouts from the base member while the geometrically-shaped cutouts 16 will all be equidistant from the plane of base member 18 but will be intermediate in distance (compared to geometrically-shaped cutouts 12 and 14) from the plane of the base member.

In order to facilitate in the assembly of art sculpture 10, base member 18 may include a schematic representation 26 which corresponds to the geometrically-shaped cutouts and the locations of the mounting pegs. Thus, schematic representation 26 includes a schematic illustration 28, corresponding to geometrically-shaped cutouts 12 and a schematic illustration 30, corresponding to mounting pegs 20, which are utilized to facilitate in the assembly of the art structure. In a similar manner, schematic illustrations 32 and 34 corresponding, respectively, to geometrically-shaped cutouts 14 and mounting pegs 22 and schematic illustrations 34 and 36 corresponding, respectively, to geometrically-shaped cutouts 16 and mounting pegs 24 are also included as part of schematic representation 26. Schematic representation 26, which may take the form

of a separate sheet which may be pasted or otherwise secured to base member **18** or which may take the form of an etching into the base member, is therefore useful in defining the appropriate locations of the mounting pegs and the orientation of the geometrically-shaped cutouts relative to the base member. It should be noted that if the base member is of a transparent material, such as clear Lucite, it may be advantageous to attach the schematic representation to base member **18** on the other side of the base member with the schematic representation visable through the material. This allows the shaped cutouts to be secured to the base member in a proper fashion and allows the schematic representation to be removed from the other side of the base member after assembly. Once the cutouts are in place, the cutouts on the other side of the base member may be mounted using the already mounted cutouts (and mounting pegs) as the guide.

Referring to FIG. **3**, the geometrically-shaped cutouts **12, 14** and **16** are secured to their respective mounting pegs **20, 22** and **24** by a fastening material **40,** which may take the form of an adhesive, glue, or the like, which also is utilized to secure the mounting pegs to base member **18.** It will also be appreciated that the geometrically-shaped cutouts may be mounted, by their respective mounting pegs, on each side of base member **18** (see FIGS. **2** and **3**). In order to improve the symmetry of the assembled art sculpture the art sculpture may be assembled with the geometrically-shaped cutouts to one side of the base member being the mirror image of the geometrically-shaped cutouts to the other side of the base member.

As shown specifically in FIG. **1,** the art sculpture **10** may include a stand, generally designated **42,** having a base or pedestal **42***a* and an elongate supporting member **42***b* connected, at one end thereof, to pedestal **42***a* and, at the other end thereof, to base member **18.** Stand **42** is used to support the art sculpture **10** for display or the like.

In order to provide a more complete description of the embodiment of art sculpture **10** as shown in FIGS. **1–3,** a typical assembly sequence will now be described.

Art sculpture **10** is advantageously purchased in a disassembled configuration and assembled from the plurality of components including base member **18,** mounting pegs **20, 22** and **24,** geometrically-shaped cutouts **12, 14** and **16** and base **42.**

As the first step in the assembly sequence, the mounting pegs **20, 22** and **24** are secured to their respective geometrically-shaped cutouts **12, 14** and **16** by fastening material **40.** By way of example, the fastening material **40** may take the form of a glue or cement material dispensed from a separate container or, in the alternative, the mounting pegs and/or the geometrically-shaped cutouts may be pre-glued such that moistening of one of the elements serves to secure the mounting pegs to the geometrically-shaped cutouts. In order to facilitate in securing the mounting pegs to the geometrically-shaped cutouts, the geometrically-shaped cutouts may have etched on the underside thereof, mounting peg locations (not shown).

After the geometrically-shaped cutouts have been secured to one end of the mounting pegs, the other end of the mounting pegs are secured to base nember **18.** Again, this may be accomplished by using fastening material **40** which may be dispensed from a separate container or may be pre-applied to the mounting pegs or base member at the factory. In any case, the schematic representation **26,** which is included as part of the base member, facilitates in the assembly of the art sculpture by enabling the purchaser of the art sculpture to quickly determine the location of the mounting pegs and the orientation of the geometrically-shaped cutouts, relative to the base member.

After the geometrically-shaped cutouts have been mounted on one side of base member **18,** the sequence is repeated on the other side of the base member with the geometrically-shaped cutouts being secured to their respective mounting pegs and with the mounting pegs being secured to the base member. Advantageously, the geometrically-shaped cutouts to each side of the base member should form a mirror image although, it will be appreciated, that this need not be the case and that a different orientation may be provided at the discretion of the purchaser who assembles the art sculpture. A separate schematic representation may be included to assist the purchaser in the assembly of the sculpture. However, for the case where the base member is formed of a clear plastic or similar material, the assembly on this side of the base member may be facilitated by the already oriented and assembled shaped cutouts and mounting pegs to the other side of the base member.

After the geometrically-shaped cutouts have been secured to the base member, the base member is fastened to stand **42** and, as a result thereof, art sculpture **10** may be conveniently displayed on an appropriate surface.

Referring now to FIGS. **4–6,** it will be appreciated that the geometrically-shaped cutouts may be secured to the base member by various types of mounting means. For example, geometrically-shaped cutout **44** may be secured to base member **46** by a mounting peg **48** which is secured to the geometrically-shaped cutout, at one end thereof, by fastening material **40.** However, mounting peg **48** is fastened to base member **46,** at the other end of the mounting peg, by locking means, such as a semi-circular projection **48***a* which is adapted to fit into a corresponding opening **46***a* in base member **46.** Mounting peg **48** is therefore locked in place and secured to base member **46** by the friction fit between projection **48***a* and the peg-receiving opening **46***a* of base member **46.** Additionally, referring to FIG. **6,** it will be appreciated that the mounting means for mounting the geometrically-shaped cutouts to the base member may be integrally formed as part of the base member. More particularly, FIG. **6** shows geometrically-shaped cutouts **50** which are secured to a base member **52** by mounting means, similar to mounting pegs, but which take the form of upwardly-extending projections **52***a* which are integral with base member **52.** Thus, all that is required in order to secure the geometrically-shaped cutouts to the base member is to utilize a fastening material **40** in order to secure the geometrically-shaped cutouts to projections **52***a*. In the alternative, it will be appreciated that the projections may be integral with the geometrically-shaped cutouts in which case all that is required for assembling the art sculpture is for the projections to be secured to the base member.

Referring to FIGS. **7** and **8,** an art sculpture, generally designated **10'** according to an alternative embodiment of the present invention, is shown as including a

base member **18'** on which is mounted a plurality of geometrically-shaped cutouts **12'**, **14'** and **16'**. The geometrically-shaped cutouts are mounted on base member **18'** by a plurality of mounting means, such as mounting pegs **20'**, **22'** and **24'** which may be of diverse lengths. Thus, mounting pegs **20'** are utilized to secure, by way of a fastening material **40'**, geometrically-shaped cutouts **12'** to base member **18'** and, since mounting pegs **20'** are all of the same length and are the shortest of the mounting pegs, the geometrically-shaped cutouts **12'** will all lie in a common plane, parallel to the plane of base member **18'** and closest to the base member. In a similar manner, geometrically-shaped cutouts **14'** are secured to base member **18'** by mounting pegs **22'** which are glued or otherwise secured to the base member and to the geometrically-shaped cutouts.

The geometrically-shaped cutouts need not be directly fastened to base member **18'**. Thus, geometrically-shaped cutouts **16'** may, via fastening material **40'**, be connected either directly or indirectly to other geometrically-shaped cutouts; for example, directly to geometrically-shaped cutouts **12'** or, by way of additional mounting pegs, such as mounting peg **24'**, to geometrically-shaped cutout **14'**. This enables the art sculpture **10'** to provide a varied three dimensional presentation.

In order to display the art sculpture, a frame, generally designated **54** is provided. Frame **54** includes a back surface **54*a*** to which is secured mounting base **18'** and an upstanding frame member **54*b***. This allows art sculpture **10'**, once assembled, to be displayed or hung on a wall or other appropriate surface.

It will be appreciated, therefore, that the art sculpture according to the present invention provides an improved art form which may be quickly and relatively easily assembled by a purchaser. The assembled art sculpture is pleasing in appearance and provides a multi-level, three dimensional effect. This effect may be increased by utilizing, as the mounting means, clear Lucite mounting pegs and by forming the geometrically-shaped cutouts of various colors, also of Lucite. Such materials are well known in the art and also enable the art sculpture to be fabricated relatively inexpensively and relatively easily.

Obviously, many modifications of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. For example, the assembled art sculpture need not be mounted by way of a mounting stand **42** or a frame **54.** Rather, the assembled art sculpture may be hung by a wire, or the like. Similarly, the sequence in assembling the art sculpture may be varied, for example, the mounting pegs may first be secured to the base member and, afterwards, may be secured to the shaped cutouts. It is to be understood, therefore, that the embodiments described are merely an example of the application of the principles of the invention. Additional embodiments may be devised by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An art sculpture adapted to be assembled from a plurality of components comprising a transparent base member, a plurality of geometrically-shaped cutouts adapted to be mounted on both sides of said base member in a plane removed from the plane of said base member, means for mounting and securing said plurality of geometrically-shaped cutouts to said base member being of diverse lengths thereby enabling said geometrically-shaped cutouts to define a plurality of planes parallel to each other and removed from the plane of said base member, additional geometrically-shaped cutouts adapted to be secured to said plurality of geometrically-shaped cutouts by either directly mounting and securing said additional geometrically-shaped cutouts to said plurality of geometrically-shaped cutouts or by providing additional mounting means for mounting and securing said additional geometrically-shaped cutouts, said geometrically-shaped cutouts mounted on one side of said base member being the mirror image of the geometrically-shaped cutouts mounted on the other side of said base member, said base member including a schematic representation of said plurality of geometrically-shaped cutouts spaced about said base member for facilitating in the assembly of said art sculpture, said base member including a schematic representation defining the location of said mounting means spaced about said base member for facilitating in the assembly of said art sculpture, and mounting means for displaying said art sculpture.

2. The invention according to claim **1** wherein said mounting means is a display stand.

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