

Art on the Road: Visiting Artist Studios, Palm Beach Style

by Sandra Hale Schulman

Private visits to artists' studios always feel incredibly special, entering entire creative worlds, seeing work in progress, past work and also the objects—pictures, books, models—that so often fuel the whole fire.

Recognizing how special such an experience can be, the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County has set up an Art on the Road program for a limited group of its members to take a bus tour to the studios of some of the top tier artists in the county. One tour is offered each month from January through March. All are different, with galleries and museums on the itinerary for some tours instead of studios.

For the March 10 tour, we met at the Council's beautiful headquarters in downtown Lake Worth, a renovated Art Deco building that houses offices as well as art galleries and meeting rooms for various organizations. The Cultural Council was founded in 1978 as a non-profit organization through the vision and leadership of Alexander Dreyfoos, a successful business owner and activist who believed in the value of arts and culture in enhancing the quality of life in all communities.

The day of the tour, the Council had up a great and varied show of local artists, some of whom also happen to be international artists. There's a shop filled with artist-made crafts and an information area filled with brochures and magazines from all the different arts groups in the area, including those devoted to dance, film and music.

After seeing the show and receiving a tote bag packed with helpful information, our group of about 20 art lovers boarded the bus for the ride to the studio of former Brooklyn resident sculptor Alexander Krivoshiew.



Alexander Krivoshiew in his studio. Photo by Sandra Hale Schulman.



Alexander Krivoshiew in his studio. Photo by Sandra Hale Schulman.



Olympics design sketches in Alexander Krivoshiew's studio.
Photo by Sandra Hale Schulman.



Alexander Krivoshiew with a sculpture in progress. Photo by Sandra Hale Schulman.



Alexander Krivoshiew with a table top sculpture series. Photo by Sandra Hale Schulman.

Born in New York in 1976, Krivoshiew holds a BA with honors degree in sculpture from the School of Visual Arts. He developed his interest in sculpture through studies in Greek mythology, archaeology, and social anthropology, as he lived and apprenticed on the island of Crete, in Greece, for seven years.

After moving back to the U.S., he began working in metals. As he started working larger, he outgrew his cramped Brooklyn studio and relocated to West Palm Beach, where space to make his large-scale metal works is more widely available.

This praise from renowned Long Island sculptor Hans Van de Bovenkamp is included on Krivosheiv's website: "Alexander Krivosheiw is an artist of vision and passion. His ideas are of a mature artist, and the craftsmanship is extraordinary; in both casting and fabrication. I feel as though his career is unfolding on a global level and he is truly an artist to watch."

Primarily working in metals—steel, aluminum and bronze—Krivoshiew has arrived at a gorgeous,

fluid abstract style in his work, turning human, animal and even graphic forms into sleek, swooping, tapered, interactive shapes.

His studio is located in an upscale warehouse bay, with the orderly front office designed as a business and computer design area. There are drawings, sketches and photos covering the walls, tracing the progress of his work. Another glass enclosed display case holds some smaller tabletop sculptures.

Krivoshiew looks like someone sent by central casting. Handsome and well-spoken, he charmed the crowd with a walk-through of his design and production process. The back area is his workshop, replete with large cutting, grinding and polishing machines; tables are laid out with pieces of ks in progress.

One current project is a sculpture of the interlocking rings of the Olympics, commissioned by the International Olympic Committee. Krivoshiew has taken the circular shapes to an extreme, as if they were made of a soluble material that has been dropped in water, the inks in primary colors melting and floating in liquid.

He won the commission through pure serendipity. After he ran an ad in a Florida design magazine, that magazine found its way onto a plane flying to Switzerland. After the plane landed and took off again, the passenger in the particular seat with the magazine tucked into the seatback pocket happened to be a member of the IOC searching for sculptors.

He is also experimenting with human forms and mass production of his work, which requires a whole different design thought process, as the sculpture needs to be made in sections for casting.

“I’m also interested in functional pieces,” he said, pointing out the large overhead fan with aluminum propeller shaped blades, and the racy motorcycle he designed with a sleek pod shaped tank and radically designed exhaust tubes.

Krivoshiew will soon unveil a major-league commission, a 20-foot-high version of his bronze sculpture *Moore’s Canova* to be unveiled later this year at a luxury residential complex in Taiwan directly across from the Opera House.

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