



Chico MacMurtrie/Amorphic Robot Works *Chrysalis*

MOCA is pleased to present Chico MacMurtrie/Amorphic Robot Works' project, *Chrysalis* in the Great Hall. *Chrysalis* is the most recent installation of a series of inflatable architectural structures that uses robotics and innovative technology. Chico MacMurtrie and Amorphic Robot Works (ARW) have pioneered the use of inflatable high tensile Tedlar fabric "skeletons," whose engineering allows the rigid, inflated structures to approximate the qualities of muscle and bone. *Chrysalis* starts out as a lifeless, organic form suspended from the ceiling. As air enters into the fabric, the material begins to inflate, accompanied by the syncopated respiration of the air blower. As the organic form expands, it reveals its geometric pattern analogous to those found in molecular architecture. The audience witnesses the growing process of this inflatable architecture during its descent. *Chrysalis* eventually touches ground, encapsulating the audience in a 50 x 35 x 10 network of inflated tubes. Its final shape resembles a giant molecular growth that visually and physically transforms both the architecture of the building and the audience's sense of the space. For several minutes, *Chrysalis* stays in a defined shape, allowing the audience to experience its architectural body from inside and outside before starting its ascent back into the ceiling. *Chrysalis* poetically raises questions about the invisible structure that underlies all of life and ultimately the analogies between man, machine and architecture.

ABOUT CHICO MACMURTRIE Chico MacMurtrie is internationally recognized for his large-scale, performative, kinetic installations, and interactive public sculpture. Graduated from UCLA (New Forms and Concepts) in 1987, he has exhibited widely in America, Europe, and Asia, and has received the support of many notable granting agencies, including the Rockefeller Foundation and the Daniel Langlois Foundation. His awards include five grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the The Fundación Telefonica / Vida Life, CEC Artslink and Ars Electronica award. MacMurtrie is the Artistic Director of Amorphic Robot Works (ARW), a collective he founded in 1991, consisting of artists, scientists and engineers. Currently operating out of Brooklyn, New York, ARW is dedicated to the study and creation of movement as it is expressed in anthropomorphic and abstract robotic forms. MacMurtrie has been working over the last years on his innovative, inflatable sculptures, which were exhibited in major museum shows and other international venues. Geo Homsy, Chico MacMurtrie and Bill

Washabaugh are the winners of the international Climate Clock competition to create a large-scale kinetic public sculpture for the City of San Jose, CA.

Amorphic Robot Works:

Chico MacMurtrie, Artistic Director

Luise Kaunert, Artist Representative

William Cooper Bowen III, Electronics, Programming

George Homsy, Engineering

Bill Washabaugh, CAD

assisted by Katie Treidl,

Gwylim Johnston, CAD intern

Frank Hausman, technical support

Tymm Twillman, technical support

Carlos Corpa, fabrication

Mateo Galindo, fabrication, assembly

Nathan A. Haney, fabrication

Nichole Rita Welch, fabrication, assembly

Bobby Zokaites, fabrication, assembly management

Waldo Evan Jespersen, fabrication, assembly management

Dan Meenach, fabrication, assembly

Carbon Therrien, assembly

Lee Coons, fabrication

Brook Grant, fabrication, welding

Jason Kihl, Water jet cutting

Kyle Szostek, fabrication

Joe Quarnberg, assembly

Special thanks to:

Jean-Luc Cuisinier

Wil Peterson

Henry Kerr

The production of *Chrysalis* has been facilitated by the generous donation of high tensile strength CTF3 fabric and technological support by Cubic Tech, Mesa, Arizona and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support comes from Robert and Estellean Wick.