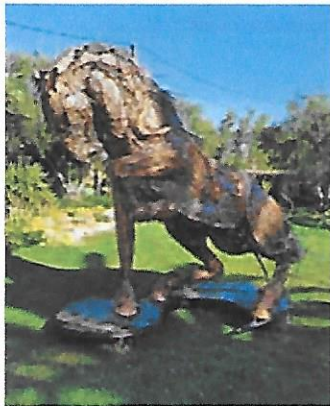


A Hidden Gem:

Oropeza Sculpture Garden

By Julie Leah, Artist and Art Lover



If you love to find and experience hidden enclaves of art like I do, take a short jaunt to Irvine and soak in the inspired work of a local Costa Mesa artist. Daniel Oropeza has a new sculpture garden located in The Nursery by Southwinds in Irvine, near the Great Park.

Oropeza, who goes by the distinctive moniker The Scientific Sculptor, has on display "Lux Maximus", the winner of the ARTPRIZE 2017 for People's Choice. This luminescent sculpture of a giant horse calls to mind the magic and lore of the Knights of the Round Table. It is reflective of Oropeza's innovative style which fuses copper, steel, and glass. Oropeza's large scale sculptures may be rooted in science, but they are mythical through and through, enticing the viewer's imagination. Oropeza does that and more with a genre he invented, which is as much fantasy as it is realism. Representative examples also on display are his "Fear & Curiosity", a haunting and magical dragon, and "The Phoenix", rising from the ashes.

Doyle Reno is another renowned artist featured at the sculpture garden. His Compass Rose is a modernist take on a sundial, epic in scale and gleaming with bold strokes of copper and glass. Reno has pioneered a process known as blind reverse carving. It begins with optical grade acrylic glass which he carves on the reverse side through a stream of conscious process.

The Oropeza Sculpture Garden is a hidden gem, situated on five acres. Set among succulents, waterscapes, handcrafted European ceramics, and art, the setting feels to me like the grounds of a Five Star Resort. It is a welcome reprieve from the hustle and bustle of Southern California. Visit oropezasculpturegarden.com for more information. For press and sales for tours, contact Lisa M. Berman.



Julie Leah, Content Coordinator for Mesa Verde Living, is also an accomplished artist who loves to share her passion for art with the community. See her work at julieleahart.com.

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