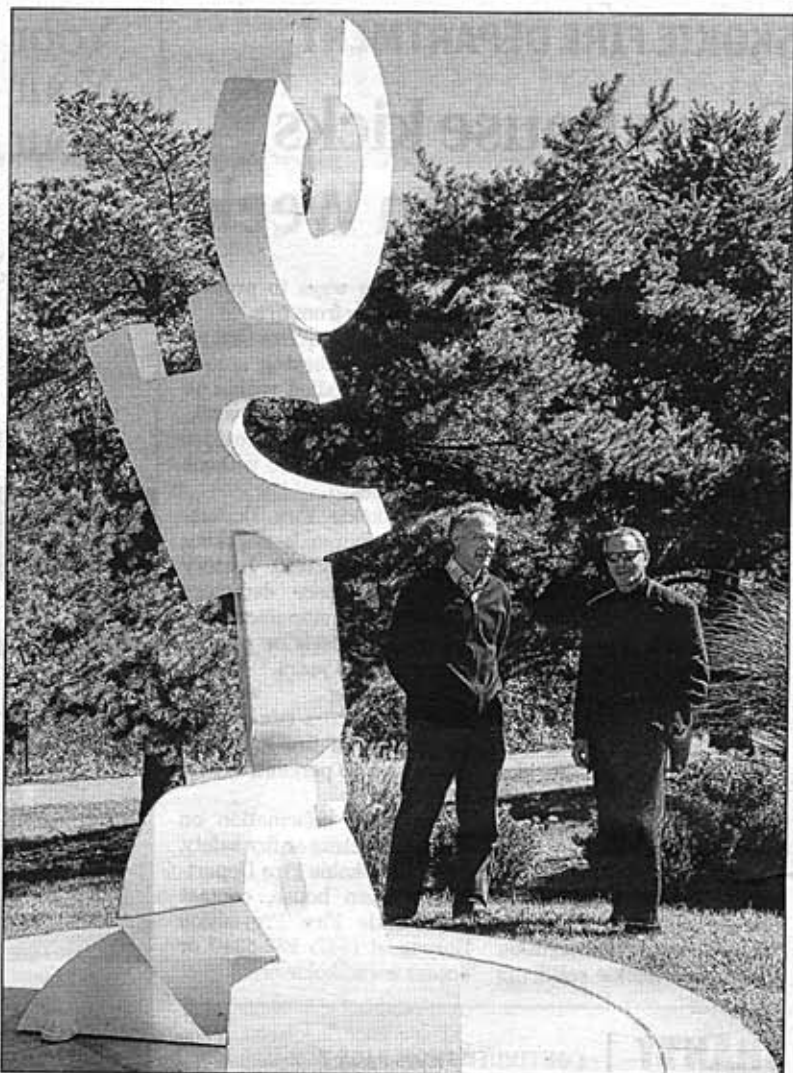


Sculptor Richard Taylor (left) talks with David Weinberg Sunday about his work that won the Lewis C. Weinberg Biennial Sculpture Competition. The art was unveiled Sunday in the Skokie NorthShore Sculpture Park. |

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SCULPTURE PARK.



Milwaukee artist wins Sculpture Park award

Milwaukee artist Richard Taylor's sculpture, "Caressed By The Moon," was named winner of the 2011 Lewis C. Weinberg Biennial Sculpture Competition Sunday by the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park.

The sculpture was unveiled under clear skies in a special section of the Skokie park between Dempster and Main streets on the east side of McCormick Boulevard.

Taylor said the inspiration for the sculpture came from music and poetry. He created the piece while he was reading the poetry of Pablo Neruda and Mary Oliver.

"Their combined thoughts regarding our relationship to the natural world and our relationships to each other as humans merged in this sculpture," the artist said at Sunday's ceremonies. "Our lives are touched in profound yet silent ways by

those we live with and by our natural surroundings, and our spirits profit from being as open to these influences as we can be. The moon, in this case, is a metaphor for all of the natural world."

The winning sculpture, made of painted aluminum, will remain on display in the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park for two years.

The competition is named for the Sculpture Park's former president and benefactor, Lewis Weinberg, who died in 2008 from cancer. The prize of \$3,000 and all expenses associated with the competition, installation and removal of the sculptures are provided by Weinberg's family honoring his love for art and devotion to the Skokie Sculpture Park.

Taylor's sculpture is the second one to win the competition and replaces Ron

Gard's, "French Kiss," which had been on display in the park since 2009.

On hand for Sunday's ceremonies were village and state officials, members of the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park Board of Directors and docents, the Weinberg family and the artist and his family.

The Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park features nearly 60 sculptures along the North Channel of the Chicago River between Dempster Street and Touhy Avenue.

Supporters of the Sculpture Park include the Village of Skokie, Niles Township, the Illinois Arts Council, foundations, businesses and individuals.

More information on the Skokie Northshore Sculpture Park is available at www.sculpturepark.org, or by calling (847) 679-4265.

— Mike Isaacs