

TAMPA ARTS TRAIL



National Wall Art Gallery

Richard Warrington's "Action People" is one of four limited-edition metal wall pieces that will be introduced this weekend.

Solo Show Features Sculptor's Wall Pieces

By ESTHER HAMMER
Tribune correspondent

A new gallery in Tampa is hosting its first solo show this weekend.

National Wall Art Gallery, which opened in April at 305 N. Willow Ave., has an unusual focus.

"There are no paintings, prints or posters. It's strictly sculptural wall pieces," said Hal Leek, who owns the gallery with his wife, Man' McDowell. "It's a small niche, but we've got it covered."

On Friday and Saturday, the gallery will introduce four limited-edition metal wall sculptures by noted Spokane, Wash., sculptor Richard Warrington.

Four works may not seem like much, but it's a lot to Leek.

"No other gallery in the country has that many of his pieces," he said, noting that he is a popular, well-respected sculptor of national repute, represented in private and corporate collections.

So how did Wall Art earn such favor?

"Because we are what we are," Leek said. "To the best of my knowledge, we are the only exclusively sculptural wall gallery in the country that handles this kind of art, so we get to pick and choose what we carry."

An impressionistic sculptor who builds two- and three-dimensional hollow forms and silhouette sculptures, Warrington is known as much for his large, freestanding pieces as for his wall sculptures.

Over the years, he has worked in steel, bronze, and cast acrylics. Lately, though, his preferred medium is hand-worked and brushed aluminum with a powder coating, which is what the four pieces in the exhibit are made of.

It will be the first Tampa show of his work.

The opening receptions, featuring wine and hors d'oeuvres, are from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday.

You may get to meet the artist at the opening.

"He's trying to get here from Spokane, but it's not definite," Leek said. "They are snowed in there."

All four pieces are part of the permanent gallery stock, so if you miss the opening, you can see them later.

Call the gallery at (813), 258-2244 for information.



**Sculptor's Metal Wall
Pieces On Display**

Tampa Arts Trail