

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



**FRANK LEDBETTER TO CREATE ENTRANCEWAY SCULPTURE FOR
THE MATTIE KELLY CULTURAL ARTS VILLAGE**

DESTIN, Fla.--April 18, 2013--Frank Ledbetter was selected by the Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation (MKAF) to design and create an entranceway sculpture to the Mattie Kelly Cultural Arts Village. This is his largest sculpture is now one of the few pieces of public art featured in Destin.

The commanding 20-foot sculpture is created out of stainless steel and includes hundreds of puzzle-like pieces that create interest and texture. The sculpture is positioned at the entrance to the Mattie Kelly Arts Village off Commons Drive and the shiny stainless steel surface glistens in the sun, making the sculpture a dazzling beacon for the arts. The title of the sculpture is "Welcoming Arms" and it resembles a conductor welcoming guests to a performance.

"With our architect's conceptual plan to create an iconic entrance to the Cultural Arts Village, we are delighted to discover Frank Ledbetter, a former sculpture artist from our Festival of the Arts while supporting an artist from our region," said MKAF Executive Director Marcia Hull.

Drawing inspiration from the colorful flora and fauna of his native Alabama coast and the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Ledbetter renders metal into works of art with an inspired approach to color and form that has become his signature. A self taught prolific metal artist, Ledbetter enjoys creating functional pieces, as well as those which are purely decorative. Bringing a client's idea to life is a very rewarding experience for him. He loves creating creatures, both real and imagined to the delight and surprise of those who see them. From his studio in Theodore, Ala., Ledbetter hand cuts stainless steel and aluminum metal and using the welding process creates unique works of art.

Although Frank has only been a metal artist since 2003, his talents have earned him awards and entrance into fine art galleries and fine art shows. He has been commissioned to do many public and private art projects all over the country and in the Caribbean. He recently completed several substantial commission pieces including a large Twin Blue Marlin Sculpture, which is the focal point

for the Wharf Development in Orange Beach, Ala. and an abstract sculpture he created for the Mobile Public Library. He is currently working on a large piece titled “Earth Rising” for a private sculpture garden. Ledbetter has received also awards and recognition from several art organizations, including the Eastern Shore Art Association, The Cultural Arts Alliance and a prestigious award from the Peter Anderson Art Association.

For more information, visit www.MattieKellyArtsFoundation.org or call 850-650-2226.

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The Mattie Kelly Arts Foundation, a 501-c-3 not-for-profit charitable arts organization, was founded in 1995 on the cultural, educational and spiritual beliefs of the late Destin Matriarch, Mattie Kelly. The Foundation’s mission is to be the leading art advocate supporting cultural arts and student educational outreach serving Okaloosa and Walton counties in Northwest Florida.

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