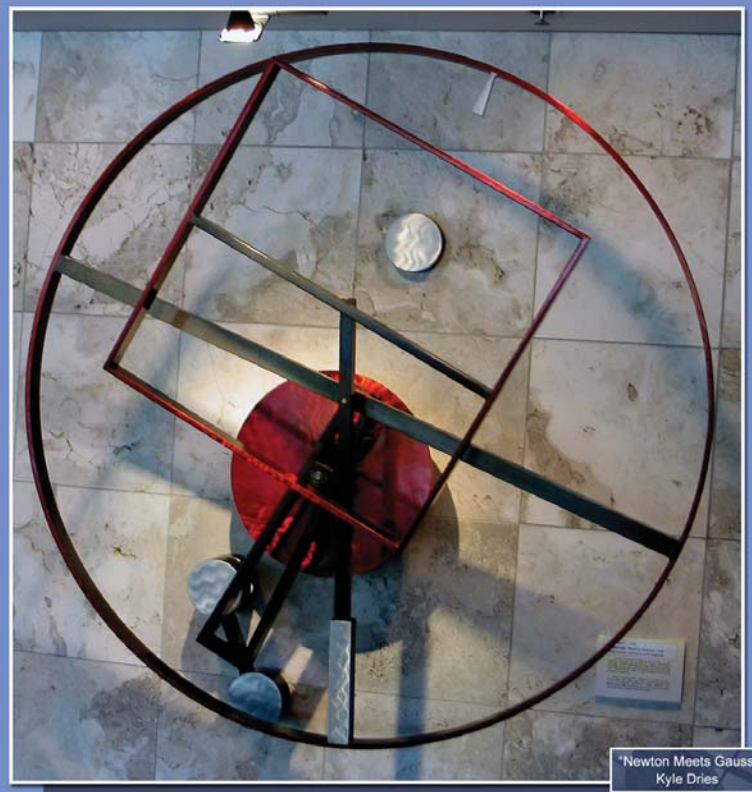


"Newton Meets Gauss"
Kyle Dries

Magnetic Moment and five smaller pieces of art located elsewhere in the laboratory were funded by the Art in State Buildings Program, which is administered by the Florida Department of State.

This program requires that one half of one percent of state building construction costs be set aside to aquire artwork for permanent public display.

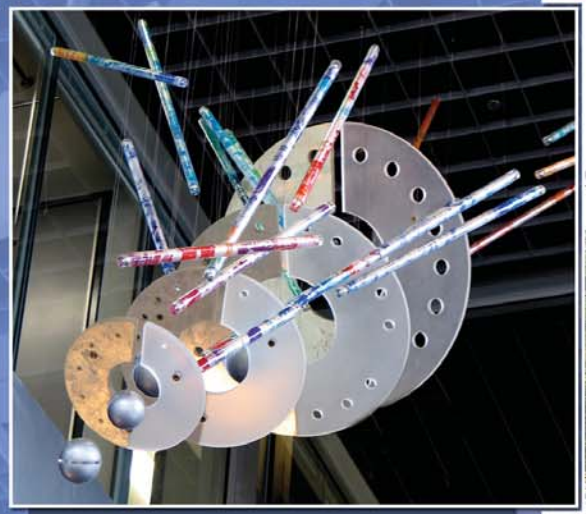
Magnetic Moment:

the artwork of the

National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

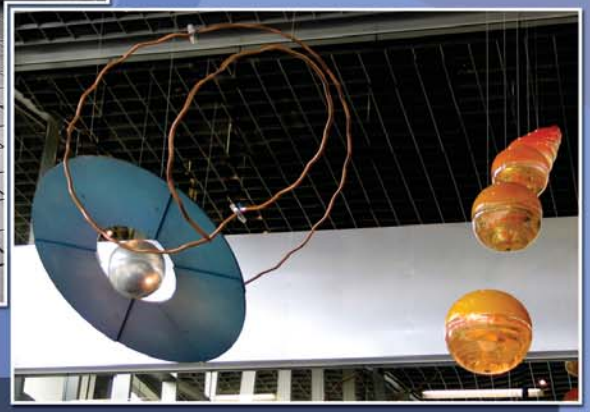
Magnetic Moment, the series of artwork featured in the Magnet Lab's main lobby, is a symbolic representation of the past, present and future of magnetism and magnet research.

Inspired by the scientific terminology of magnet research — singing flames, magnetic bubbles, plasma wind, magnetic bondage, and magic stone — artists Walter Gordiner and Alice Van Leunen created artwork that speaks to the power and intricacy of the research conducted here.



▲ **Suspended, polished and painted rings, along with acrylic rods with inlaid dichoric glass, represent the formation of cosmic plasma filaments. Scientific phenomena of "cosmic" proportions are shown on a greatly reduced scale.**

◀ **The pyramid configuration of the piece represents the early history of magnet research that began with lodestones and a compass. The suspended sphere and square above represent the motion of the earth's axis. The small cube hovering above depicts the Meissner effect, a phenomenon in which one object floats above another as their magnetic fields interact.**



An extremely large steel coil, a disc assemblage, and a stream of acrylic spheres represent the study of extraordinarily small scientific phenomena, such as superconductivity, in greatly enlarged scale. The cluster of objects suggests the flow of electricity that creates a magnet. ▶

As the artists explain:

"The artwork for the L-shaped atrium space comprises three components — an aerial portion in each side of the L and one free-standing form in the angle of the scale, plasma theory, and the "macro" nature of the universe; the other side represents the invisible, elemental, "micro" aspects of magnetism. These two aspects of magnetism reference the mechanics of life and the two extremes of perception and dimension. There is an inherent gravity-defying aspect to the installation of the aerial artwork, since it is important that the objects appear to levitate."