Master Peace

“This is my masterpiece, my Master-Peace, the culmination of my understanding of the Mastery of Peace. As an artist, inspired by many artists before me, I believe this is the long, drawn out moment in time when the spirit of balance and harmony move the artists’ hand to an object, which history then embraces as beauty, truth and light. Objects of peace illuminate the minds of generations.” - Kevin Box

Master Peace is the most ambitious sculpture of Kevin Box’s career. It consists of one thousand origami cranes cast in museum quality metal. Inspired by the Japanese Senbazuru, it is the act of creating one thousand origami cranes within a single year. An ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who makes a thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish. In some stories you are granted eternal good luck such as long life or recovery from illness or injury. This makes them thoughtful gifts for special friends and family at times of sadness and celebration. The crane in Japan is a mystical or holy creature that is said to live for a thousand years. Internationally the crane resembles the archetypal image of the human and Holy Spirit and is recognized as a symbol of Peace.

This project began in 2004 when Kevin began exhibiting his paper inspired sculpture and thereby learned of the legend of 1000 cranes. Nine years of concept drawings and engineering challenges dealing with 1000 cranes finally culminated through the help of his wife Jennifer. Together they solved the organizational, logistical and financial challenges of realizing such a complex artwork. They hired an engineer to solve the physical difficulty of assembly and transportation of the sculpture. Then came the task of financing the enormous casting cost. Inspired by "One for One" and "Kickstarter Campaign" business models, they estimated that every crane purchased individually could pay for another crane in the monument. This created the more interesting possibility of becoming part-owner of a masterpiece and co-creator of "Master Peace" simultaneously. The cost of both cranes would be included in a fixed number of pieces available for sale, whereby the sculpture would fund itself. In 2013 all 1000 cranes were cast. 500 of the cranes will be globally dispersed for sale as individual pieces. The sale of the initial 500 cranes will finance the remaining 500 cranes, all of which will then be assembled into a 24-foot tall monument. The finished piece will be mounted upon a reflective surface where all 1000 cranes will be seen together in the reflection.

"Master Peace" is a unique concept. Half of the sculpture will be scattered around the world as individual pieces in permanent public collections and handed down through generations of private collections, while the other half remains in one place, gathered together by physical and psychological reflections. The monument will not be available for sale, rather it was conceived to inspire as the largest sculpture in a traveling exhibition titled Origami in the Garden. Origami in the Garden is a collection of monumental works created by Kevin Box though his collaborations with Jennifer Box and origami masters Te Jui Fu and Robert J. Lang. The exhibition is designed specifically for display in museums, botanical and sculpture gardens throughout the United States and abroad. Worldwide, millions of people have participated in the folding of peace cranes, origami animals and objects. This exhibition will provide viewers an opportunity to learn more about origami, its techniques, applications, philosophies and the message of peace that it has come to symbolize. From world peace to inner peace and the economy of peace, our hope is to change consciousness and inspire. The first exhibition of Origami in the Garden is scheduled to debut at the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens, in Santa Fe, New Mexico USA in April of 2014. Please view our website for further updates and the traveling schedule for Origami in the Garden. www.sculpturegarden.com

"I am moved by the memorials of the past that are sad. I want this to be a memorial to the future, like wishing wells, that bring joy, excitement and hope for what lies ahead."

-Jennifer Box
“Master Peace” FAQ's

Why is it named Master Peace?
It is the largest, most ambitious sculpture in Kevin's career. It is the message of peace that Kevin and Jennifer desire to master individually and together.

It looks like paper, what is Master Peace made of?
All of Kevin's work begins with paper and goes through a very complex process known as lost wax casting. He developed a technique specifically for casting paper into museum quality metals. Master Peace is cast in bronze (smaller indoor pieces) and stainless steel (for larger outdoor pieces). The bronzes are patina-ed with titanium-oxide and an acrylic finish featuring subtle ferric nitrate highlights. The stainless steel pieces are painted or powder-coated and then hand-finished with a specialized wax to make them look like paper while still holding up to the elements of outdoors. The monument is powder-coated cast 316-L stainless steel.

Why is the piece signed Box²?
Kevin and his wife Jennifer often collaborate and when they do, they use the signature Box². It was Jennifer's idea to use the “2”, creating Box² as a signature to represent their collaborative support for one another.

Where will the monument be?
Master Peace monument will tour with Origami in the Garden, an exhibition at botanical gardens worldwide. Afterwards it can be viewed at the Turquoise Trail Sculpture Garden and Studio in Santa Fe New Mexico.

My Master Peace has chipped on the wingtip, what do I do?
Due to shipping and movement sometimes little chips can happen on the tips of the wings or on the beak of the crane. Wite-Out correction fluid is the quickest and simplest way to fix small blemishes. More serious damage to the patina can be fixed for by sending it to our studio for a full re-patina, currently $160 plus shipping and handling.

How do I clean my Master Peace?
Most cleaning can be done by dusting or using compressed air. Damp paper towels or cotton cloths will take care of further cleaning. Outdoor pieces can be rinsed off regularly with water. Tough stains on a powder-coat finish can be removed carefully with a Scotch-Brite brand pad and water. White acrylic paint or Wite-Out correction fluid is good for small touch-ups. For anything larger we recommend contacting the studio.

Why are discounts not available?
Based on the “One for One” business model, all proceeds from the sale of the individual cranes go towards creating the monument. The costs have been carefully calculated and designed to “fund itself.”

Why are there four different sizes of cranes?
The four sizes represent four generations; enough time to create the agreement of peace and how long Master Peace has been designed to last.

Why are some of the cranes looking down?
The individual pieces, most look up symbolizing youth who traditionally look up to elders for wisdom and learning. In the monument they look down in order to face one another and the truth of the past symbolized by their reflection. “I love the word reflection because it has dual meaning: one is to think back or consider something already past and the other refers to the immediate present as seen in a mirror.”

- Kevin Box