

“One revolution per day”

An exceptional artwork honors the AO and the innovative work of Robert Mathys Senior.



1 Chris van der Werken, Esther and Robert Mathys Jr, and Paul Gregg.

Stainless steel fastenings on the sculpture are clearly evident and call to mind AO faculty's dexterity with instrumentation, while the inscription "life is movement" attests to the fact that "movement is a healthy part of the world and also of joints. It ties in with the AO philosophy that external fixation




promotes quick recovery and early movement," says artist Paul Gregg.

"Great care was taken to ensure the sculpture reflects the meticulous craftsmanship and precise engineering that appeals to me as an artist, and is vitally important to the AO in the advancement of orthopedic surgery," he adds.

The artist's sculptures for the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, Ireland, of bombed-out buildings repaired using external fixators as architectural scaffolding brought him to the attention of AO Past President Peter Matter, who later recommended Gregg's work to Robert Mathys Junior.

Mathys had confidence in Gregg's vision of an extraordinary artwork to honor the AO's first half-century; it's noteworthy that the material used nods to the exceptional craftsmanship and skill with stainless steel shown by his father, the late Robert Mathys Senior, pioneering designer of AO instruments and implants.

"I deliberately worked with stainless steel to reference orthopedic fixation," Gregg explains. "I included wood as this has a fibrous make-up similar to bone. It also offers "warmth" to the overall piece so as to balance the "clinical" reference stainless steel brings. By fixing these materials together with clearly visible bolts my fabrication displays the kinship of techniques between an orthopedic surgeon and a carpenter."

The theme of kinship also resonates with Robert Mathys Jr, who at the sculpture's unveiling said the artwork's two main components: "are locked to each other so that one part can not work without the other part. For me it is a symbol of partnership and steady development and of an idea spread across the globe. I am very proud to still be a member of this great AO Family."    eig
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