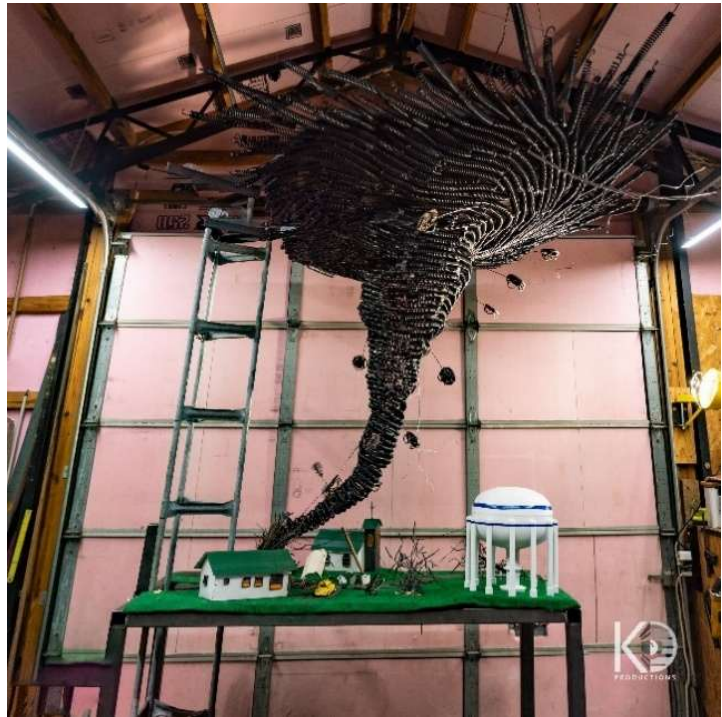


Tornado Town

101 x 34 x 63 inches

Found debris from 2024

Memorial Day storm in Rogers, AR



Tom Flynn & Michael Pantzer

Bio

Tom Flynn has been doing found-object metal art for the last 20 years. He lives in Rogers, Arkansas, where he is a retired electrical designer. Tom also writes music and plays several types of musical instruments.

(Michael Pantzer's biography is located with a separate work.)

Tornado Town Description: The 9ft high, 500-pound tornado sculpture is made from around 475 trampoline springs collected from the Rogers Arkansas community after the Memorial weekend tornado destroyed parts of the town. The tornado hangs from part of a scrapped shortwave antenna and is bearing down on a small town, including a replica of the town's water tower, a small church and house, and other small elements made from the storm debris.

Artist Statement

I want my work to look like what it is made out of. I just want to make people smile and maybe look at my work and see that things are not always what they appear to be. I am often inspired by what I find, each piece of metal has the potential to become something more than what it is when combined with other pieces of metal. Sometimes, being a found-object metal artist is really close to being a hoarder, as every piece of metal has potential. I am happiest when I do not have to change the shape of something, but by combining it with other parts, I can make it become something else.

On the Tornado Town sculpture: "Arkansans are a tough lot; we don't need another sculpture of a torso with a hole in it to help us grieve for our losses from the Memorial Day storm. We tend to laugh at adversity and chuckle at our problems. This sculpture includes 12 tiny trampolines being sucked up into the tornado in honor of those who so kindly donated springs from trampolines destroyed by the tornado."

(Michael Pantzer's artist statement is located with a separate work.)