



Serpent Mother

The *Serpent Mother* is a sinuous sculpture of metal, fire, water and air.

The installation has a footprint of 65' by 50' and is comprised of a 168' long skeleton, which rises to a height of 20', encircling an 8' tall copper egg.



Her green eyes glow as she rears her hydraulic-driven head 30' in the



air, breathing fire from her fangs and teeth. Her 158' long spine is studded with 91 voluptuous handcrafted stainless steel vertebrae. At night, she can hold 2000 people within her warm embrace, attracted like moths to the glow of her fiery spine. Audience members control the sequence of 41 "poofers", hidden inside vertebrae along her undulating spine. In her blazing coils, she incubates her Egg, whose shell cracks, exposing a glowing blue flame. It then hatches into a celebration of sequenced multi-colored high flying and undulating fiery blasts.



flaminglotusgirls 

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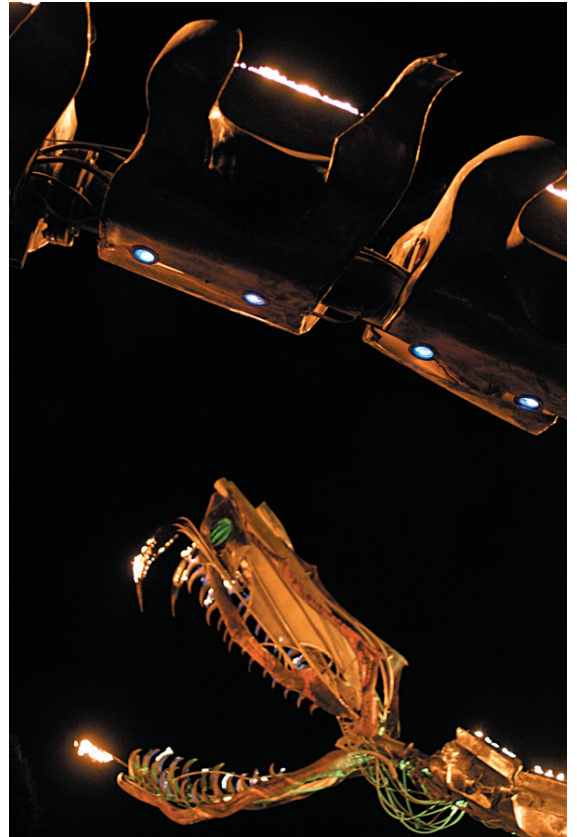
Serpent Mother

The elements of the Serpent Mother are connected to the life cycle of our planet, through beginnings and endings. She tells the story of transmutation and the passing of life into an alternate future. Her story is one of shedding skins and inhibitions, releasing fears, expressing the voice, and the body in celebration of new beginnings, growth and



reincarnation of all life. Serpent Mother recognizes that we are connected and responsible for our alliance with nature. She sees the participants' true intentions and allows her Egg to unleash its full potential. She realizes that it is up to the people of the world to decide how to ultimately use her sacred powers. The transformation of one life into another is now complete and the creative forces of all life manifest into this world as a fountain of massive spiraling fire.

Her body is fuelled by petroleum, the distilled spirit of chlorophyll and protein, a natural resource derived from our source of life—the earth and sun. This naturally occurring substance is her ancient lifeblood. The Serpent Mother uses this primal element as a testament to the power of nature,



creating a symbol of beauty, power and divine femininity. She reminds us not to take for granted the gift of fossil fuels. In this embrace she inspires us to care for her Egg, her offspring, a symbol of the future and of the life cycle ending with her and beginning with this new life; this new energy.





The *Serpent Mother* is a naturally creative environment that brings audience members together through awe inspiring beauty and the power of fire.



Performance Space: The Space In Her Embrace



Tech Specs

Spine:

The spine is constructed from steel, stainless steel, copper, light and fire. It rises up to a 20' tall arch and then spirals down around her egg.

The skeleton frame is 168' long and is composed of 16 curved steel sections, bolted together. 91 stainless steel vertebrae complete this spine

façade. Between each vertebrae is a round, copper ring of cartilage.

An ambient propane flame runs the entire of her spine. Each vertebrae includes an electrically controlled solenoid valve that creates dazzling animated fire poofers and chases down her spine. Audience members control these effects with button boxes placed along the ribs.

Under her spine runs a series of full color RGB LEDs, pulsing to the heart beat of the Serpent Mother.



Ribs:

The Serpent Mother has 8 fixed ribs of steel pipe supporting the skeleton and a number of kinetic ribs. Broken and single ribs hang from the spine's arch, and many vertebrae lack ribs entirely. The ribs are constructed of stainless steel. Each rib attaches to the spine under the cartilage via a pivot mount, allowing gentle lateral motion.

The Egg:

The egg is a copper and stainless steel kinetic fire sculpture, and has a delicate curling linear pattern of fine stainless steel rod around a 8' tall, copper-encased shell. The shell can crack open with a remote-controlled actuating system. Fierce blue propane flames escape the shells edges, giving audience members a glimpse of the power contained within. At the event climax, the egg opens fully unleashing the Serpent's progeny.



Tech Specs



The Head:

The Serpent Mother head is composed of aluminium, steel, copper and stainless steel. Audience members move the head 30' up in the air, open and close the jaws and rotate the head from side to side using hydraulic controls. Her teeth glow red-hot and shoot blue flames out of every tooth. Her eyes are made of hand-blown glass orbs, glowing an ethereal green from a bank of retracted green lasers. She has an active, electrical sparking effect for her tongue: a Marx generator. Steam escapes the Serpent's nose in furious blasts, from a pump sending water into two in-line, cylindrical flash boilers in her nostrils.



Tangible Interface:

The Serpent Mother has electronic systems that control the "poofers", igniters down her spine, LEDs on her under-belly, hydraulics in her head and the liquid flame effects in her Egg.

Audience members can use an intuitive global control for the poofers; a set of touch panel controls. This allows the audience to activate the poofers from head to tail by simply sweeping their fingers across the touch-sensitive image of the Serpent. The entire installation can also be controlled from a single computer. We can produce programmed sweeps and chase patterns from head to tail. Turn all the poofers on at once, and interact with the patterns for the belly LEDs. New tangible interfaces creating new ways to interact with and choreographed the Serpent are being developed as being developed all the time.



Fire Safety:



The *Serpent Mother* is built and engineered to high safety standards, meeting NFPA guidelines for permanent propane installations.

Our highest priority is public protection and we work with the relevant authorities and permitting process to insure that we create a safe environment. We have worked with venue managers, fire departments, security officers, and police internationally.

Flaming Lotus Girls take fire safety training tutorials yearly and are trained in handling flammable materials safely, and building flame affects. Our fire safety record is excellent with no incidents in seven years.

We have full documentation for the *Serpent Mother* which we provide as part of the permitting process: engineering specifications,

risk assessment plan, safe operating procedure and manual.

During the event our operational plan requires staff to control the fuel depot and fire safety equipment for participant safety within the sculpture. Our Fire Performance Safety Team will meet with the authorities for a walk through and fire test before runtime.



The Flaming Lotus Girls:

The Flaming Lotus Girls (FLG) are a female driven group of artists who formed in 2000 to create our first sculpture the Flaming Lotus, from which we take our name. For the past seven years we have grown and thrived creating annual installations for Burning Man and exhibiting at events internationally; including the Power Tool Drag Races, Fire Arts Festival, Festival of Lights, Robodock in Amsterdam and the Big Day Out in Australia.

With over 100 volunteers for last year's Serpent Mother project our collaborative process includes an open and supportive culture promoting volunteer contribution and leadership opportunities. The FLG work in an egalitarian fashion, accepting input from anyone who regularly attends meetings. All creative decisions are made collaboratively. Ladies (and gentlemen) can join the FLG with no prior skill. We teach every aspect of the creative process to new members and help active members to refine techniques to further their own art.

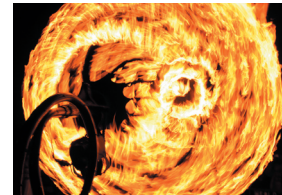
Our sculptures are composed of steel, stainless steel, copper, glass, wood, light, and fire. Our flames blaze in sizes ranging from 2 inches to 150 feet.



Flaming Fire Garden (2002)



Seven Sisters (2004), an installation of 7 varied steel fire sculptures representing the Pleiades constellation



The Hand of God (2003), a figurative work with large scale fire effects.



Serpent Mother (2006)



Angel of the Apocalypse (2005), an interactive fire, steel, and driftwood sculpture.





The Flaming Lotus Girls



Aimee Eade, Aly Hein, Angela Knowles, Anne Geluardi, Amy Tse, Ariel & Jon Spear, Baba Frey, B'anna Federico, Brandi Hugo, Brent Coons, Carly Perez, Caroline Miller, Carson Best, Catherine Lynch, Cecelia Camenga, Charles J. Gallagher, Charlie Gadeken, Charlotte Sanford, Chelsea Griffie, Cheryl Fralick, Christine Shepherd, Colinne Hemrich, Cory Drazkowski, Dan DasMann, Dan Ramsauer, Dave Best, Dave X, David Ellsworth, Eric Stahl, Eric Smith, Gaspo, Geoff Leland, Gole Mawaz-Khan, Hazmatt Snyder, India Farrier, Jack Schroll, Jacquelynn Schmitz, James Stauffer, Jen Clemente, Jeremy Travis, Jessica Bruder, Jessica Hobbs, Jill Manthei, Jim Mason, Joe Romano, John DeVenezia, John Wilson, Jonathan Foote, Jordana Joseph, Josh Hunter, Judy A. Castro, Karen Cusolito, Kezia Zichichi, Kiki Pettit, Lani, Laura Kimpton, Lee Chubb, Lee Sonko, Les Young, Liam McNamara, Lynn Bryant, Mario Occipinti, Mark Farrier, Marlies Tallman, Mary Newsom, Matt Cline, Michael & Lorelei, Michael Curry, Michael Prados, Michelle Palmer, Moira Mcnamara,



Naemi Frey, Nick, Nicola Ginzler, Olivia Sawi, Olivier Bonin, Oona Squire, P. Robert "Rigger" Kilpatrick, Paul Walker, Phil Keiser, Phil Spitler, Pounch Mortazavi, Ray Sykes, Rebecca Hotmetal Anders, Rich Humphrey, Rosa Anna DeFilippis, Sara Peyrot, Scott Cotner, Scott Sparky Bartlett, Shannon, Sharon Burke, Shawna Shandrick, Simon, Simone



Davalos, Simone Sigrid Marticke, Stella Rubenstein, Steve Monahan, Steve Nelson, Steven T. Jones, Stig Hackvan, Sue Duesberg, Suzun Hughes, Tad Rollow, Tamara Li, Tasha Berg, Tori Tait, Tuna, Vanessa Montiel, Paul Waschka, Wendy Blackburn, Will Flare Bartlett, Xanat, Yasmin Mawaz-Khan, and many other girls who have made flowers, ground metal, welded steel, and ignited flames.





Serpent Mother is a highly kinetic participant-controlled installation. She can support up to 2000 audience members within her embrace. Audience members can choose to make her head and neck move or open and close the jaws. An individual can initiate 10 different sequence patterns for the 31 poofers, activate each poofer via buttons or proximity sensors or operate controls which activate the liquid fueled egg affect.

STRUCTURE

- 168' long skeleton snake body, arching up to 20' and coiling around an 8'Egg.
- 65' x 50' installation footprint.
- Made of steel, copper, glass, fire, and light.
- Hydraulically-activated and participant controlled moving head.
- Structural rib pairs are suspended on bearings allowing them to be moved.
- An interactive LED illumination system.

FIRE, ELECTRICITY and STEAM

- Ambient flame effect down the entire length of her spine.
- 41 computer-and-participant controlled poofers
- Hydraulically-activated moving head with forced air effect coming out of the fangs.
- An Egg with 50 foot multidimensional liquid fuel fire effect erupting out of its interior.
- Electrically pulsing tongue.
- Dramatic steam blast from her mouth.

