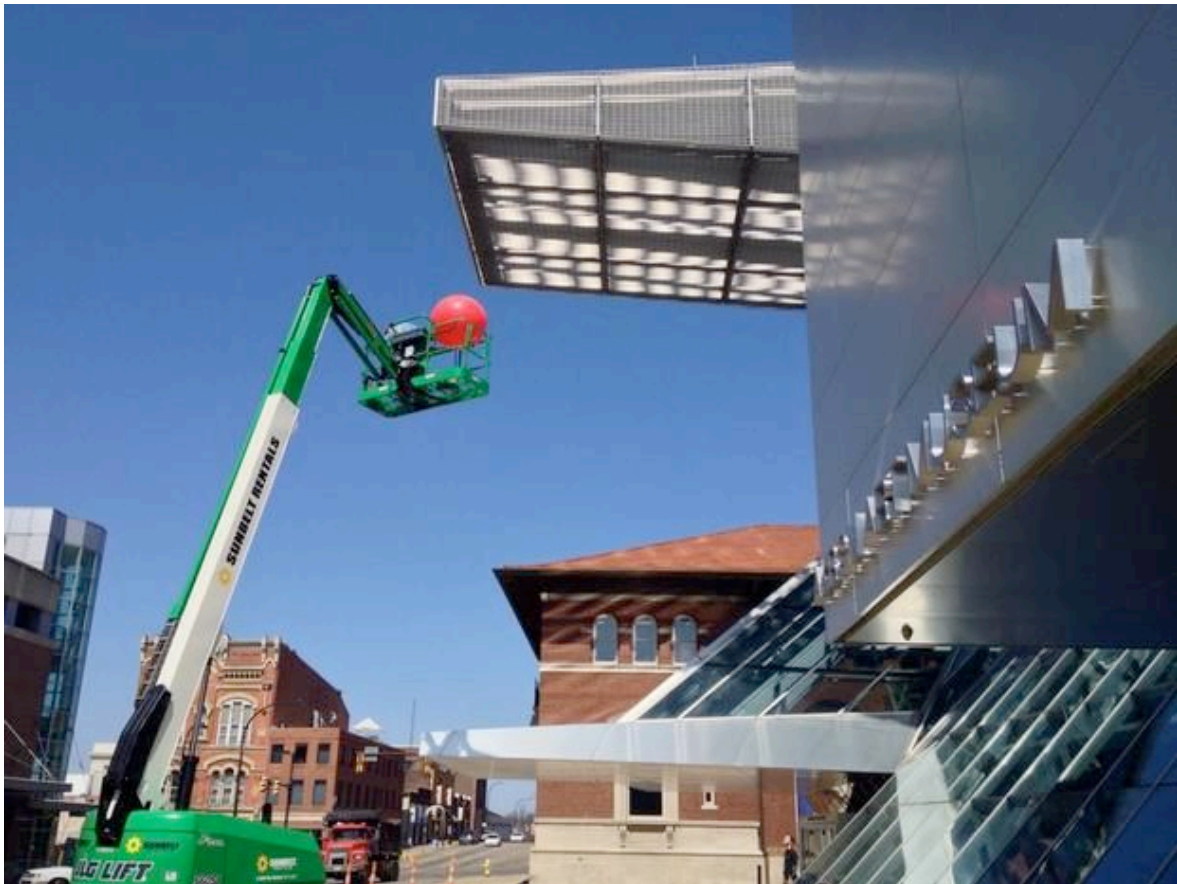


Ahoy! Akron Art Museum hangs red buoys from its roof as part of its Tony Feher sculpture show



Navigating sculpture: The Akron Art Museum is hanging buoys from its roof in a work created by artist Tony Feher for his retrospective opening Saturday. *(Courtesy Akron Art Museum)*

By [PrintSteven Litt, The Plain Dealer](#)

There's no danger of a ship sailing up South High Street in Akron and smashing into the [Akron Art Museum](#).

But the institution isn't taking any chances.

To draw attention to the 25-year retrospective of artist [Tony Feher](#), [opening Saturday](#), the museum is installing a piece by the artist that consists of hanging three red marine buoys from the wing-like, cantilevered roof of the museum's 2007 expansion and renovation, designed by Coop Himmelb(l)au of Vienna, Austria.

Because they'll hang instead of float, the 54-inch buoys will invert their intended orientation. This could mean viewers should turn their heads upside down to get the proper view, but few will probably explore that option.

The buoys will also flout the usual navigational rule of "red right returning," meaning, *keep that red buoy on your right as you return to harbor or you'll regret it, sailor*.

Given that there are three red buoys, any such meaning would be rendered moot.

Exhibit

What: Tony Feher retrospective

Venue: Akron Art Museum

Where: 1 S. High St., Akron

When: Saturday, April 12, through Sunday, Aug. 17.

Admission: \$7. Call 330-376-9185 or go to akronartmuseum.org.

Should Feher have included a green buoy for each red one? The museum isn't saying.

Feher's art focuses on the transformative use of everyday materials in the creation of extraordinary objects. A native of Albuquerque, N.M., born in 1956, he received a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas, and he lives in New York.

His retrospective, the first major museum exhibition on his work, was organized by the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston and debuted at the Des Moines Art Center in 2012. It has had several stops since then, and will be on view in Akron through Aug. 17.

Chief Curator Janice Driesbach at the Akron museum said in a written statement that Feher has created impressive, site-determined works in response to distinctive architecture throughout the world, including the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey, and the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Texas.

She adds that with " 'Buoy' [his work in Akron] he has envisioned a dazzling installation with a new material that at once expands his practice and brings distinction to the Akron Art Museum."

Starting Friday, museum visitors will be able to judge for themselves.