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Jon Koehler

American, b. 1966

Jon Koehler transforms stainless steel — a material known for its strength and permanence — into sculptures that feel buoyant, fluid, and alive. His highly polished, balloon-like forms challenge expectations, capturing shifting light and perspective in ways that continually surprise and engage the viewer.

For Jon, sculpture is not just about creating an object but about shaping an experience. Each piece reflects its surroundings and the people who interact with it, ensuring that every encounter is unique. This dynamic dialogue between material, space, and viewer lies at the core of his practice.

At the heart of Jon's work is a fascination with paradox: the heavy appearing weightless, the rigid seeming soft, the permanent infused with play. By reshaping industrial steel into forms associated with joy and wonder, he invites us to see both the material — and ourselves — in a new light.

His sculptures are created to do more than occupy a space; they are meant to define it. Whether placed in a home, garden, or public setting, his works serve as anchors that spark reflection, presence, and beauty that endures.

Collectors and curators are drawn not only to the craftsmanship of Jon's sculptures, but also to the transformation they bring to any environment. Each piece becomes a centerpiece for connection — to story, to space, and to the people who experience it.

Artist Statement

I transform stainless steel into sculptures that feel buoyant, fluid, and alive. Each piece is formed, welded, polished, and painted entirely by my hands, turning industrial steel into reflective, balloon-like forms that capture light and perspective in constantly shifting ways.

My work explores paradox - the heavy appearing weightless, the rigid seeming soft, the permanent infused with play. I am fascinated by the dialogue between material, space, and viewer, creating sculptures that are experiences rather than objects.

These works are meant to define a space, spark reflection, and create a lasting sense of presence and wonder — connecting people to the sculpture, its surroundings, and to each other.

Collections

Current Sculptural Collections Exploring Movement and Form

These are my ongoing collections, each focusing on themes of fluidity, transformation, and connection. While they vary in scale, they all reflect my continued exploration of the possibilities within the medium of stainless steel.

- **Burgeon** – Weightless-looking shapes resembling inflated balloons, exploring the playful, buoyant nature of form.
- **Inflated Silhouettes** – Pairs of figures, capturing simple elegance and energy, masterfully transformed into dynamic, balloon-like forms that evoke the presence, and emotion of the human form.

Resume

Commissions & Installations

Public and Monumental Sculptures

A collection of monumental works installed in public spaces, each piece engaging its environment and community with dynamic, large-scale forms.

- **2025 "Horizons"** – Norwegian Cruise Line (Commissioned via Avant Gallery)
Material: Stainless steel
Dimensions: 10' x 3' round base
A striking installation that celebrates the boundless potential of the open sea. "Horizons" is a dynamic sculpture that captures the fluidity of movement and expansion, evoking the sense of endless journeys and exploration.
- **2025 "Voyage"** – Norwegian Cruise Line (Commissioned via Avant Gallery)
Material: Stainless steel
Dimensions: 10' x 3' round base
A symbol of adventure and discovery, "Voyage" represents the path forward. The graceful, inflated-like figures speak to the artistry of travel and the transformative nature of the ocean's endless horizons.
- **2021 "OIC"** – IRE Development, Chula Vista, CA
Material: Stainless steel, patina
Dimensions: 12' x 6' x 3'
A tribute to Abe Simkin, founder of Otay International Center. A tribute to global interconnectedness, "OIC" unites diverse cultural elements in a dynamic sculptural form.
- **2016 "Transition"** – John D. Spreckels Center, Coronado, CA
Material: Stainless steel, kinetic
Dimensions: 15' x 8' x 4'
Responding to the wind, "Transition" brings fluid motion and balance to its space, evoking change and progress.
- **2015 "Migrating Waters"** – Kona Kai Resort, Shelter Island, CA
Material: Stainless steel, patina, fire/water feature
Dimensions: 10' x 6' x 6'
A dance of fire and water, "Migrating Waters" reflects the journey of travelers, embodying the spirit of movement and transformation.
- **2014 "Dominion"** – Griffin Ranch, La Quinta, CA
Material: Stainless steel, patina
Dimensions: 14' x 7' x 5'
"Dominion" stands as a symbol of power and presence, anchoring the development with its commanding form.

- **2013 "Billowing Bait"** – Nielson Beaumont Marine, San Diego, CA
Material: Stainless steel, kinetic
Dimensions: 9' x 5' x 5'
 Shimmering in the breeze, "Billowing Bait" captures the essence of movement, echoing the energy of the ocean.
- **2013 "Open Figure"** – Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, CA
Material: Concrete steel patina, nickel
Dimensions: 8' x 3' x 2'
 "Open Figure" a collaboration that embodies the openness and foundation of legal education through minimalist elegance.
- **2012 "Lighthouse"** – Point Loma Seafoods, San Diego, CA
Material: Copper patina
Dimensions: 7' x 3' x 3'
 A sculptural beacon, "Lighthouse" echoes the historic monument, the Old Point Loma Lighthouse, guiding with its luminous presence.
- **2012 "OB1"** – OB One Church, San Diego, CA
Material: Aluminum
Dimensions: 6' x 4' x 2'
 A sleek, backlit aluminum form that channels the coastal spirit of the church, inviting reflection.
- **2012 "Old Venice"** – Old Venice Restaurant, San Diego, CA
Material: Steel patina
Dimensions: 5' x 3' x 2'
 Inspired by Italian scrollwork, "Old Venice" welcomes guests with its graceful, steel curves.
- **2009 "Freedom"** – Glorietta Bay Park, Coronado, CA
Material: Stainless steel, kinetic
Dimensions: 12' x 6' x 3'
 "Freedom" captures the essence of movement, celebrating maritime heritage through its dynamic, wind-driven form.
- **2009 "Ocean Beach Paw Print"** – Sunset Cliffs Animal Hospital, San Diego, CA
Material: Stainless steel
Dimensions: 4' x 3' x 1'
 A backlit paw print, "Ocean Beach Paw Print" reflects the spirit of the coast through ocean-themed engravings.
- **2009 "Pinion"** – City of Solana Beach, CA
Material: Stainless steel, kinetic
Dimensions: 10' x 6' x 4'
 Inspired by the natural rhythm of wind and motion, "Pinion" captures the graceful movement of nature's forces in a dynamic, kinetic form.
- **2008 "Rain"** – Molasky Group, Las Vegas, NV
Material: Stainless steel, kinetic
Dimensions: 20' x 6' x 6'
 Inspired by water's flow, "Rain" towers, capturing the cascading beauty of nature in motion.
- **2008 "Una Pluma"** – Baume et Mercier, Private Collection, Connecticut
Material: Stainless steel
Dimensions: 5' x 2' x 1'
 A graceful feather in stainless steel, "Una Pluma" symbolizes lightness, freedom, and the elegance of flight.
- **2007 "Ballenas"** – Private Collection, San Diego, CA
Material: Stainless steel, kinetic

Dimensions: 10' x 5' x 3'

Evoking the grace of whales, "Ballenas" moves with the wind, a tribute to the majesty of the ocean.

- **2006 "Pinnacle"** – Private Collection, San Diego, CA

Material: Stainless steel, kinetic

Dimensions: 8' x 4' x 3'

"Pinnacle" represents the smooth flow of time, a dynamic ascent toward the future.

- **2005 "Waves of Time"** – Private Collection, Lake Havasu, CA

Material: Stainless steel, kinetic

Dimensions: 12' x 6' x 3'

Twisting with oceanic motion, "Waves of Time" reflects the ebb and flow of life's moments.

- **2003 "Evolution"** – Koehler Kraft, San Diego, CA

Material: Stainless/carbon steel, kinetic

Dimensions: 15' x 7' x 5'

A rotating sail, "Evolution" embodies transformation, capturing the power of movement in a still world.

Solo exhibits

2025 - Norton Museum Gala Auction, Miami, FL

2025 - Art Palm Beach, Palm Beach, FL

2024 - Hamptons Fine Art Fair, Hamptons, FL

2024 - Palm Beach Moderna and Contemporary Art Fair, Palm Beach, FL

2024 - Art Wynwood, Miami, FL

2023 - 2024 Art Miami, Miami, FL

2019 - 2020 DoubleTree by Hilton, San Diego, CA

2019 Solare Ristorante, San Diego, CA 2019 "Conge-Liberty Station", San Diego, CA

2018-2019 Liberty Public Market, San Diego, CA

2018 City of Encinitas Library, Encinitas, CA

2017-2018 Botanical Gardens, San Diego, CA

2010-2018 Annual, "San Diego Artwalk", San Diego, CA

2014-2018 Annual, "Artie Awards", Artwalk San Diego, CA

2014-2016 Annual, Laguna Art Group Gallery Show, Laguna Beach, CA

2016 "Artwalk at Liberty Station", San Diego, CA

2013 "Aventine: Artist Feature" San Diego, CA

2013 "Temporary Public Art Program" Solana Beach, CA

2011-2012 Annual, Botanical Gardens, San Diego, CA

2010 "LJAWF" La Jolla Art Festival, La Jolla, CA

2010 "Hilton Embarcadero" San Diego, CA

2005-2009 Annual, "Urban Tree Project" Port of San Diego, CA

2006 "Port of San Diego Sculpture Show" San Diego, CA

2005 "Wildlife Art" San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, CA

Publications

VIE Magazine: "[A Modern Masterpiece on San Marino](#)", August 2025

Cool San Diego Sites: "[Billowing Bait](#) comes alive on Shelter Island", April 2025

Sotheby's: "Jon Koehler [Luminance](#)", January 2025

Florida Design Magazine - Miami Edition: "[Fun House](#)", "[Artist Movement](#)", December 2024

Artsy: "[Soft Reflections](#): The Dynamic Sculptures of Jon Koehler", October 2024

Miami Living Magazine: "[Steel Resolve](#): Sculptor Jon Koehler Forges Dreams", November 2023

City of Solana Beach: "Public Art Piece "[Pinon](#)" Restoration Completed!", March 2023

Coval Metal Coat: "[Coval Metal Coat](#)", July 2021

Coronado Art Magazine: "Immerse Yourself in the Arts", February 2020

SDNews.com: "Point Loma artist Jon Koehler featured at Art Walk", April 2018

San Diego Uptown News: "Patrick Stillman Receives Artie Award", February 2018

The Coronado Times: "City Shows off Its New Senior Activity Center", December 2016

Coronado Arts: "[Transition](#) by Jon Koehler", December 2016

Coronado Eagle & Journal, cover: "The 52 Must-See Highlights of Coronado", March 2016

Cool San Diego Sites: "[Shining Freedom](#) sculpture catches fire!", January 2015

Consenses: "Chain 9, Martha's Vineyards", March 2014

Laguna Beach Art Magazine: "20 Artists to Watch: Feature Artist", September 2013

Sea Magazine: "Marine Metal Smith: Jon Koehler", August 2013

Thomas Jefferson School of Law News: "Alumni Association Art Gift Arrives", Feb. 2013

Villager, cover: "Glorietta Bay, Coronado; The Beauty of San Diego Series", February 2013

The Beacon: "Point Loma Seafoods reopened with Lighthouse Icon", April 2012

Coronado Arts: "[Freedom](#) by Jon Koehler", November 2010

Coronado Common Sense: "Freedom and Tent City Pavilion", October 2009

Molasky Group Newsletter: "Molasky corporate center Installs Public Art", Winter 2008

San Diego Downtown News, cover: "Art in Motion", July 2007

On the Horizon, cover: "San Diego Sculpture Show", September 2006

The Beacon, Arts & Entertainment: "Reaching its Peak", May 2006

San Diego Metro Magazine: "Celebrate 10 years of Public Art", May 2006

San Diego This Week, cover: November 16, 2005

The Beacon: "Linking kinetic components, artistic sculpture", July 2005

San Diego Home & Gardens: "Second Chances", June 2005

Coronado Eagle & Journal, cover: "Sculpture in motion to grace local Bayside Park", April 2005