



Contributed

Jenni Ward's "Hive" sculpture will be on display at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History through December.

'Hive' hanging at Santa Cruz MAH

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SANTA CRUZ — Jenni Ward's largest sculpture to date is currently hanging in a stairwell at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History.

However, if viewers want to see "Hive" in its full form, they not only have to view it with their eyes, but also by moving their feet.

Each floor of the staircase offers a different perspective of the piece, as well as a completely different look of the sculpture.

"That's what I love about this piece," the Aptos artist said. "The piece itself morphs and moves based on your perspective."

The installation, which took about six months to craft, is comprised of 150 pieces which are all individually hand-built and hand-carved from high fired stoneware. Each piece is suspended from an individual steel cable hung in the open stairwell of the museum.

Placing the piece perfectly

in the wide-open space was the most difficult part of the project, Ward said.

Ward said the piece was inspired by structures in nature, calling it similar to a "honeycomb-style structure."

"It's been an experimentation as it develops and evolves," she said.

Hive was the first installation selected for display as the community mobile at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History. The mobile is part of a new MAH approach where the museum commissions a site-specific work annually from a local artist.

The installation will be on view through December. Once it is taken down, Ward said each individual piece could be reassembled into a new arrangement to be displayed at another venue.

The Museum of Art & History is located at 705 Front St. in Santa Cruz. For information, visit www.santacruzmah.org.