

# FIU

## Frost Art Museum

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Kitty Dumas  
305-348-3892 / [Kdumas@fiu.edu](mailto:Kdumas@fiu.edu)  
[Frostartmuseum.org](http://Frostartmuseum.org)

## **New Frost Art Museum Welcomes Steve Tobin's *Roots*** *Two Important Works on Long-Term Loan to the Sculpture Park at FIU*

**Miami – (Nov. 15, 2008)** -- Two massive bronze sculptures, both important works by Steve Tobin, are now on view outside the new Frost Art Museum at Florida International University. The pieces, *Steelroots(rust patina)* and *Steelroots (white patina)*, are on special long-term loan from the artist. The *Steelroots* series is comprised of massive rolled and bent steel pipes that can soar 25 to 40 feet high.

The pieces are a striking compliment to the new Frost Art Museum building which opens to the public Nov. 29, and to the Sculpture Park at FIU, one of the largest university sculpture parks in the country featuring more than 80 works including pieces by Jacques Lipchitz, Mark di Suvero, Charles Ginnever, John Henry and Jean Claude Rigaud.



Tobin's *Steelroots* are an evolution of his signature bronze *Walking Roots* series, which culminated in the first and only 9/11 memorial near Ground Zero. *Trinity Root*, the massive bronze casting/sculpture is known for being the "tree that saved St. Paul's Chapel" during the World Trade Center attack.

"The function for me of roots is to show the power of the unseen," Tobin told *The New York Times*. "And on 9/11, we found out about the power of all our unseen connections, the things that nurture us that are hidden below the surface."

In 2007, Tobin's *Steel Roots* was one of 40 sculptures chosen for the City of New York's "40 Years of Art in the Parks" retrospective, gracing the entrance to Prospect Park in Brooklyn. Tobin is known for turning aspects of nature into sculpture. His work has been shown at the American Museum of Natural History and the American Craft Museum.

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“We are thrilled to have these two magnificent works,” said Carol Damian, director of the Frost. “We are very grateful to Steve for continuing to allow us to share his work with the Miami community.”

To create his bronze sculptures of tree roots, he excavated dead roots as large as 30 feet in diameter and cast them in bronze. Some pieces took 200 castings to create a single piece. After they were welded together, he applied a patina of iron oxide. The pieces are meant to be walked under or looked up through.

The sculptures join two other Tobin works, *Bone Wall*, *Walking Roots*, and *Forest Floor* on loan since 2003.

Visitors to the University Park campus may view the pieces on their own, or schedule a tour of the Sculpture Park by calling (305) 348-6963.

Hundreds of visitors tour the park each year during Breakfast in the Park, the Frost's annual Art Basel Miami Beach event, which includes a continental breakfast, tours of the park and an informal lecture by an acclaimed artist. This year's event will feature sculptor Joel Shapiro on Dec. 7, from 9:30-noon.

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The Frost Art Museum at Florida International University is an AAM accredited university museum and Smithsonian affiliate. Admission is free. The Frost is located at 10975 SW 17<sup>th</sup> St. on the University Park campus. For more information, visit [www.frostartmuseum.org](http://www.frostartmuseum.org) or call 305-348-2890.

