

Exhibits 'Shape' Up Nicely In C. Springs

Local Museum Displays Highlight 3-d Shapes

September 27, 2009|By Phillip Valys Staff writer

All Stanford Slutsky wanted with his geometric artworks was a social experiment.

Sporting a black tuxedo and purple tie patterned with spheres, pyramids and cubes, Slutsky invited Lea Pawsner to a canvas during a recent artist reception at the Coral Springs Museum of Art. His artwork was studded with several rows of wooden squares jutting out from the frame.

"You like this piece?" Slutsky asked, fanning the tips of his fingers across the bars. At his touch, the wooden pieces oscillated back and forth in a flurry of movement, fluttering and emitting a noise like vibrating metal clanging together.

"Oh, yes. It's really beautiful," Pawsner said, as Slutsky yanks off the wooden bar. It's fastened to a magnet like the other rows in this piece, which is titled Music.

"How about this piece?" he asked. Pawsner's mouth droops slightly, and she reaches for the rod. Slutsky draws the object out of reach in mock horror and gasps, "Oh, don't you know you can't touch artwork in a museum?"

Slutsky pegs himself a "geometric artist," fashioning acute and obtusely-angled artworks from hobbyist construction materials like dowels, hunks of plastic and handfuls of magnets. The result: geometric shapes arranged in optical patterns that appear to spring off the canvas.

That's why he likens his newest exhibit of optical illusions, "The Shape of Things," which is on display at the museum, to a magician pulling off a sleight-of-hand.

"I like to play with people's minds," said Slutsky, of Delray Beach. "People never liked my comedy, so the pieces bring out my sarcastic humor. It's funny because artwork isn't meant to be touched, but then people tell others that the artworks are movable. Should they touch? Is what they're seeing really moving?"

Slutsky's geometric marvels are split between the second and third dimension. Dozens of acrylic-on-canvas explore every angle in the old high school textbook, from cubes enfolded in other multicolored cubes in Cubegonal to the visual trickery of nine twisted ribbons seeming to dance across the canvas in a kaleidoscope of color in Ribbons.

Nearby, his 3-D spectrum makes effective use of wood dowels. Fort Styxx, with its piles of multicolored wooden dowels fenced in by a defensive wall, resembles a prison of pick-up sticks.