



# LONNIE HANZON

Cabinet of Curiosities at Museum of Outdoor Arts



This month *Stroll Bonnie Brae* was able to interview Colorado-based installation artist Lonnie Hanzon. In Denver, Hanzon is known for designing the peripatetic Wizard's Chest toy store, The interior design of The Clocktower Cabaret, the original Parade of Lights, and his installations at Pridefest in Civic



Center Park for many years. Nationally, he is known for his work for Neiman Marcus featured in numerous HGTV specials, Houston ZooLights, and the original Heist nightclub in Washington D.C.

Lonnie served inside the Museum of Outdoor Arts (MOA) from 2007-2011 as "Wizard in Residence" and he was a head show producer for LucasArts Attractions, a division of LucasFilm in the early 90's. This month the Museum of Outdoor Arts is proud to announce the grand opening of a stand-alone building in Marjorie Park, for a permanent exhibit by Lonnie Hanzon called "Cabinet of Curiosities & Impossibilities."

The permanent exhibit will be hosted in a roughly 400-square-foot building, reminiscent of an English curio shop, and is an immersive experience and contains a collection of objects from fairy tales and children's rhymes that tell stories about particular subjects, including early optics, geometry, magical tools, the heavens and objects of art. Together, Hanzon and MOA plan to use the exhibit and space for unique

immersive experiences that truly encourage the use of all senses with theatrical performances, intimate speakeasy cocktail parties and more.

We hope you enjoy this short interview with Lonnie Hanzon, the artist who created the **Cabinet of Curiosities & Impossibilities**.

*Stroll Bonnie Brae:* From your heart, what is the purpose of the Cabinet of Curiosities & Impossibilities exhibit?

**Lonnie Hanzon:** Well, it's much different than other cabinets. Other cabinets are meant to be facing death and life - a memento mori. This is more about getting people to reconnect with curiosity. The main focus of the cabinet is fairy tale relics. Actual artifacts from the most famous fairy tales. I certainly hope for people to reconnect with their inner child when they look at this exhibit. That would be the grandest hope.

*Stroll Bonnie Brae:* What is special that calls to you about the Museum of Outdoor Arts at Marjorie Park?

**Lonnie Hanzon:** It's a special place with the collection being put into that space. I will always love the views of the mountains. A pocket park. This little gated world with all of the Alice In Wonderland characters and all of the bronzes together. Talk about a beautiful Stroll. The cabinet is being sunk into the hillside on the Southeast Corner of the park.

*Stroll Bonnie Brae:* How did you come up with this idea?

**Lonnie Hanzon:** I have been working for about 45 years now. Going through files in my studio, we discovered that the first cabinet design I did was in 2001. It was for a big retail trade show. You would hear about collector cabinets at museums and I got intrigued. They were always as busy and crazy and packed full of stuff that was similar to my style. I'm a maximalist, and I love pushing all the buttons and pulling all the knobs. I probably ran into the idea of cabinets from History. Curiosity shops. Kings and Queens would have a cabinet keep, and churches would have the foot or finger or body part of a saint. It's just an idea that sang to my heart. I had done a show about early optics (The Magic Lantern show) before 35 mm was invented, they used to have huge glass slides, in the 19th century, that's how people would see the world. Those are the types of things that would be kept in cabinets. Curiosity led to this idea in 2001. It became real for the first time in the museum about 8 years later.

The artifacts come from a total of 60 Stories and Fairy Tales that we explore. They come from the Grimms or Aesops, Hanz Christian Anderson, and Mother Goose. I think the first artifact that I collected and got me down this path was Little Miss Muffet's Tuffet. I found her puppet in an antique store. Then we were able to acquire little red riding hood. Cotton & silk velvet piece. Those were the pieces that started the project, and it went from there to 3 Blind Mice's Tails. We found some new pieces that will be going into this cabinet that



we didn't have before. Wonderful architectural pieces that Hanzel and Gretl stole from the Witch's house, and more!

*Stroll Bonnie Brae:* What is the magic behind the Cabinet of Curiosities and Impossibilities?

**Lonnie Hanzel:** Part of the magic of a thing like a cabinet is when they were popular in the 1500s to 1800s, travel was a really big deal, and you didn't travel lightly. These cabinets were often the trophies of such exotic travels. In a world today where we all travel all over the world all day on our screens, it will be nice to give that wholeness of a world where you can't see everything in one visit. You can't take it all in. There are layers and layers of content. We hope it's a place that people visit and revisit repeatedly to take a mind trip... or a little mental vacation.

*Stroll Bonnie Brae:* What, do you hope, is your legacy?

**Lonnie Hanzel:** As an artist that does a lot of public artwork, that does large things. The hope of legacy - is to have one. I don't know if you can truly judge an artist's work while they're alive. I don't know if we get to be around. Often the artist has to be gone before you can see the whole or the purpose of the work. I hope that some of my stuff hangs around for a while and doesn't become digital dust. I hope for the work to live. To inspire someone else.



Over the course of his storied career, Lonnie has never let go of his belief that *"form follows function, and those functions should include storytelling, humor, meaning, and magic."*

"My goal as a creator is to reach the largest audience possible with images and messages of joy, history, and faith in the human spirit."

Be sure to visit the Museum of Outdoor Arts to experience Lonnie's Cabinet of Curiosities & Impossibilities for yourselves! (Located at 6331 S. Fiddler's Green Circle, Greenwood Village, CO 80111).



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Join us at our B2B Mixer Event on June 21st to explore the Museum of Outdoor Art, enjoy the Cabinet of Curiosities & Impossibilities and have an opportunity to meet Lonnie Hanzon!

RSVP for Stroll's Event at MOA - Details on the next page!



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# OUR UNIQUE AND IMMERSIVE B2B NETWORKING EVENT

Wednesday, June 21st, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

## OUR QUARTERLY B2B MIXER EVENT

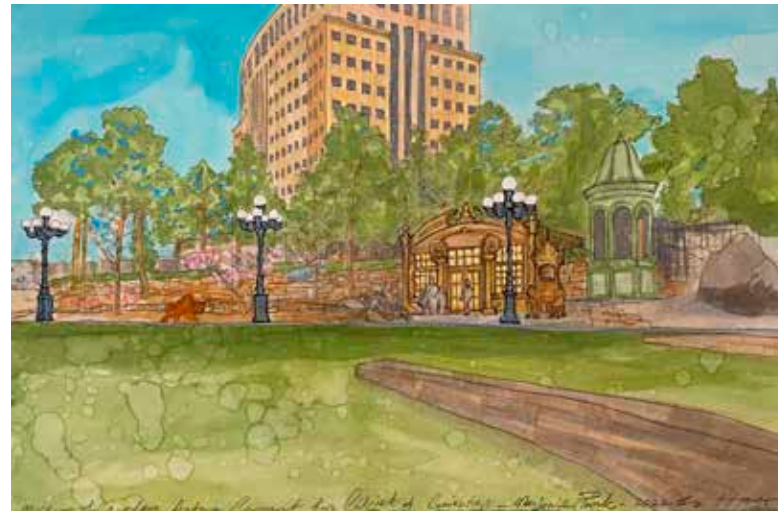
**When:** Wednesday, June 21st, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**Where:** 6331 S. Fiddler's Green Circle, Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Join Stroll Magazine and BeLocal Magazine for a unique and immersive B2B networking event at the Museum of Outdoor Arts (6331 S. Fiddler's Green Circle, Greenwood Village, CO 80111).

You're invited to our quarterly business networking meeting for resident business owners and business partners of *BeLocal Denver*, *Stroll Hilltop*, *Stroll Country Club & 7th Ave Historic and Stroll Bonnie Brae*. Our goal is to help you connect with local business owners and create lasting referral relationships!

We will have the opportunity to meet Local Installation Artist - Lonnie Hanzon and explore his highly acclaimed, brand-new, permanent installation at the Museum of Outdoor Arts:



Artist Lonnie Hanzon's Watercolor: Cabinet of Curiosities at Marjorie Park

### "CABINET OF CURIOSITIES & IMPOSSIBILITIES."

"The roughly 400 square foot building, reminiscent of an English curio shop, is an immersive experience containing a collection of objects from fairy tales and children's rhymes that tell stories about particular subjects, including early optics, geometry, magical tools, the heavens and objects of art among others."

The unique "Curiosity Cocktail" by Salta Events and Light Beverages from Argonaut Wine & Liquor will be provided.

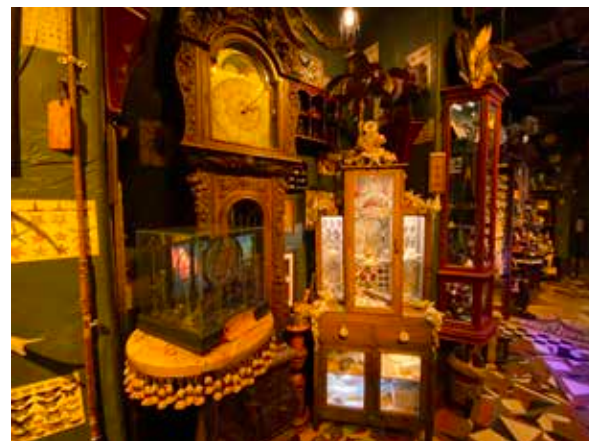
We will be giving away several door prizes including gift cards to local restaurants and a custom landscaping design dream book (valued at \$1,000)!

*\*This event is free, exclusively for Residents and Business Partners of Stroll Magazine and BeLocal Magazine\**

**This is where business gets done!**  
Please RSVP for this Event.



Scan the QR code  
or Go to: <http://evite.me/HpqHmWqvfS>  
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## STAY AFTER THE B2B MIXER!

**When:** Wednesday, June 21st, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Where:** 6331 S. Fiddler's Green Circle, Greenwood Village, CO 80111



You are invited to stay at the Museum of Outdoor Arts after the B2B Mixer concludes to enjoy UnWine Wednesday: June 21st Summer Solstice Celebration featuring performances by Elevated Circus!

UnWine Wednesdays feature wine, small bites, interactive art demonstrations, and musical ensembles. Food and drinks are available for purchase at the park. Ana Cruz and Gina Schettini of Elevated Circus have been in the circus industry for over 6 years! Their passion for high-quality event production and planning put together with their roster of performers is a match made in circus heaven. This special Solstice event will feature fun and awe-inspiring hula hoop performances that will take your breath away! The event will close out with a fire dance performance to celebrate the Summer Solstice.



Local Installation Artist - Lonnie Hanzon



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