

METTJE SWIFT



2024 CATALOG
BUTTERFLY SUSPENDED SCULPTURE

ABOUT THE ARTIST





METTJE SWIFT, known for her expertise as a municipal fabric artist, uses translucent nylon banner cloth and stainless steel tubing armatures to create stunning fabric artwork suitable for events, interior décor, and urban environments.

Explore her suspended butterfly art featured in this catalog. The butterflies are light weight sculptures ideal for enhancing your indoor spaces.

Mettje's kinetic concepts have graced notable places such as the Indianapolis Zoo and Biosphere Potsdam in Germany where the butterfly sculptures originate from a unique design and evolve through detailed fabric layering, frame construction and precise installation planning.



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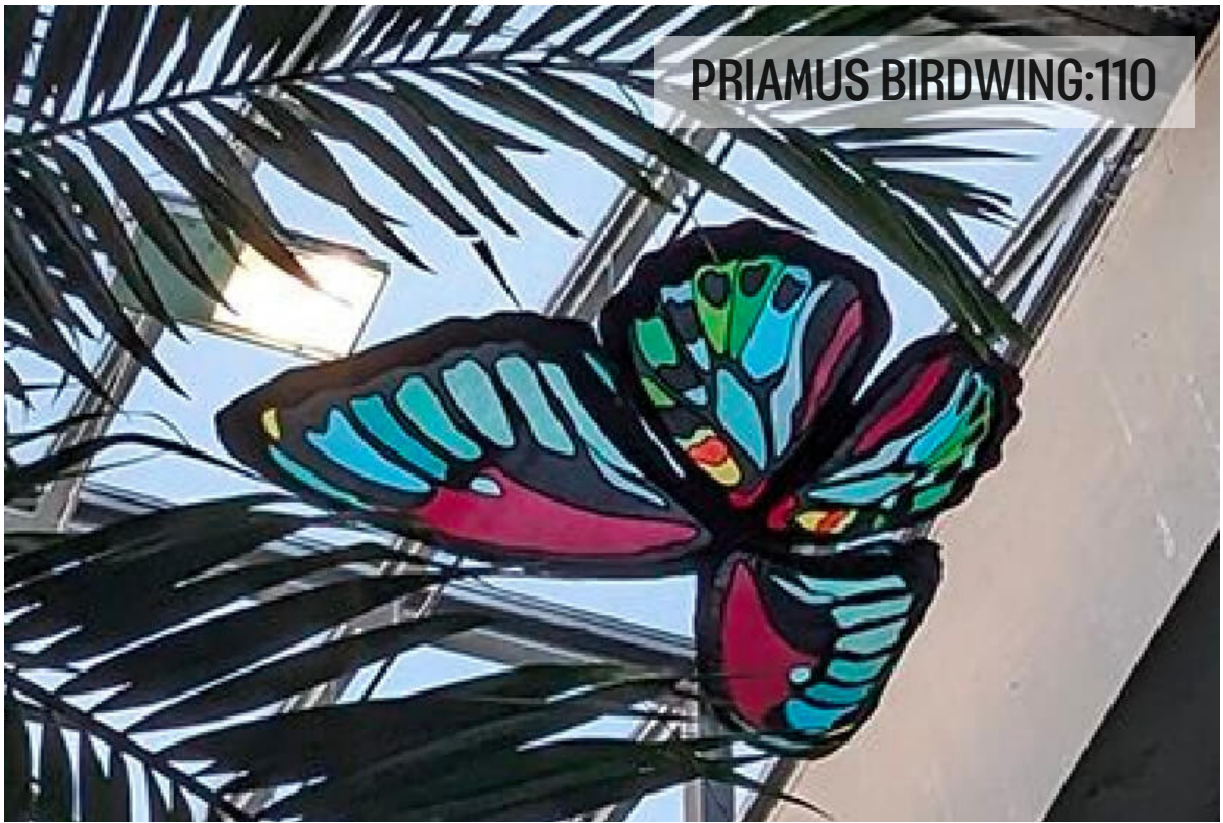
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AVAILABLE DESIGNS



VINDULA EROTA: 106



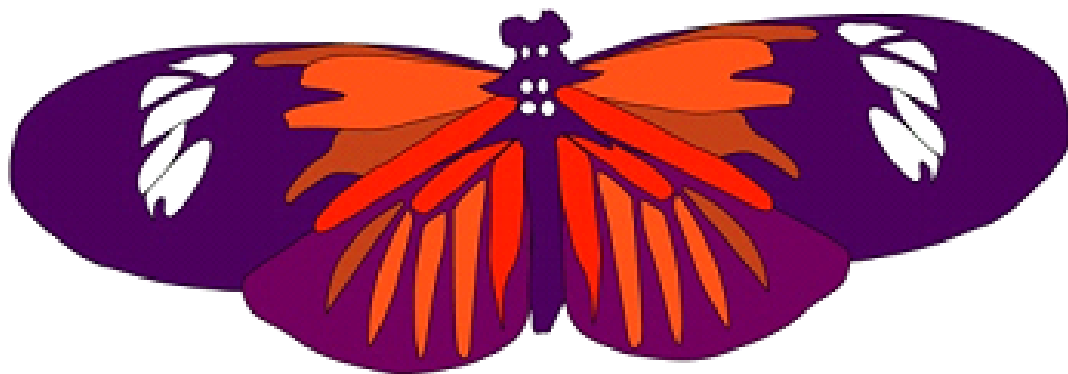
Mettje's Butterfly designs are all stored in the Banner Art Studio archives. You can order a variety of designs and even request different colors. Once you make your selection, the original pattern(s) are retrieved from our archives and a new stainless steel frame is hand bent and welded. Some variations may occur during this process. The pricing depends on the scope of your project, the complexity, and the size of the butterflies. Although we provide standard sizing options, all sizes can be customized to meet your preferences.

GROUP 1: THE TROPICAL BUTTERFLIES



EUPHAEDRA NYMPHALIDAE

101



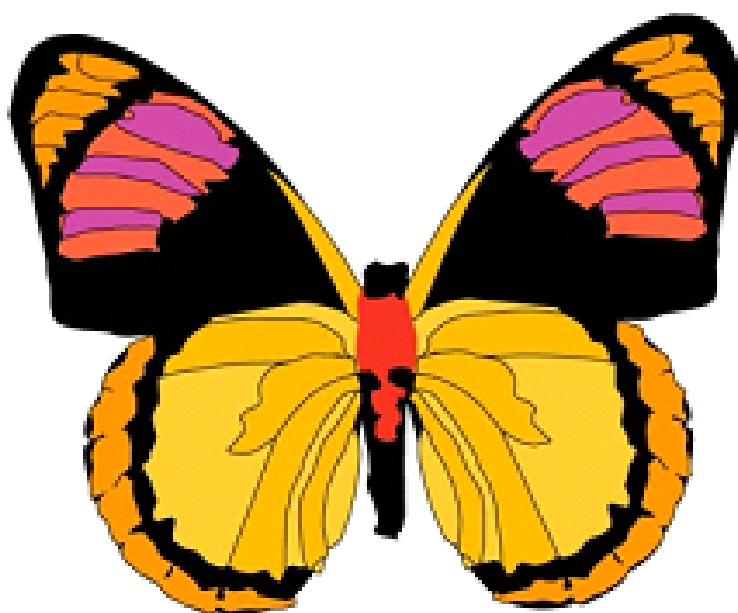
SAPHO LONGWING

102



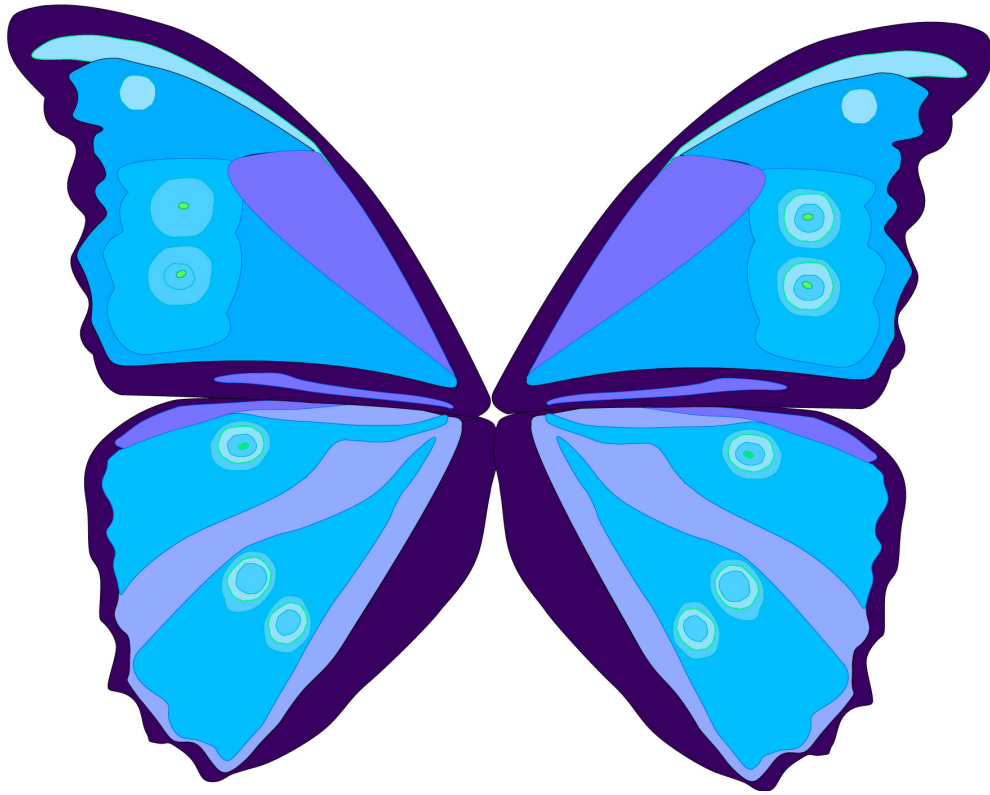
PAPILIO MORMON

103



BATESIA HYPOCHLORA
“THE PAINTED BEAUTY “

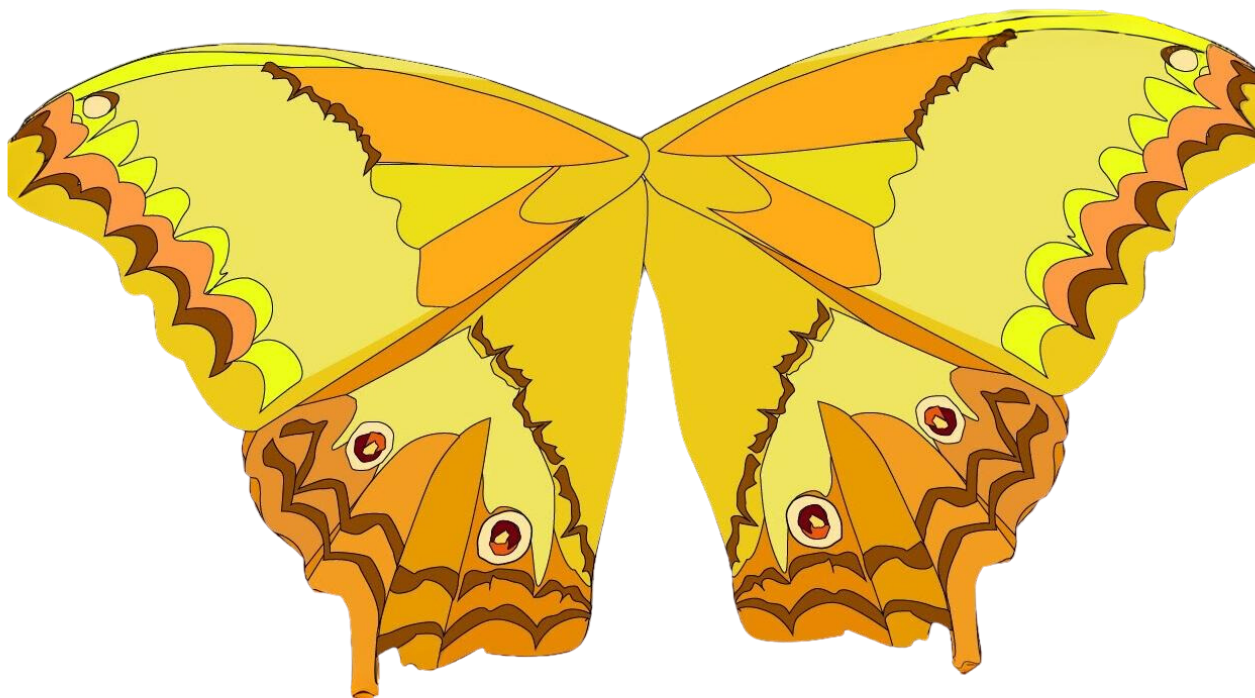
104



BLUE MORPHEUS
105



BLUE MORPHEUS(UNDERSIDE)
106



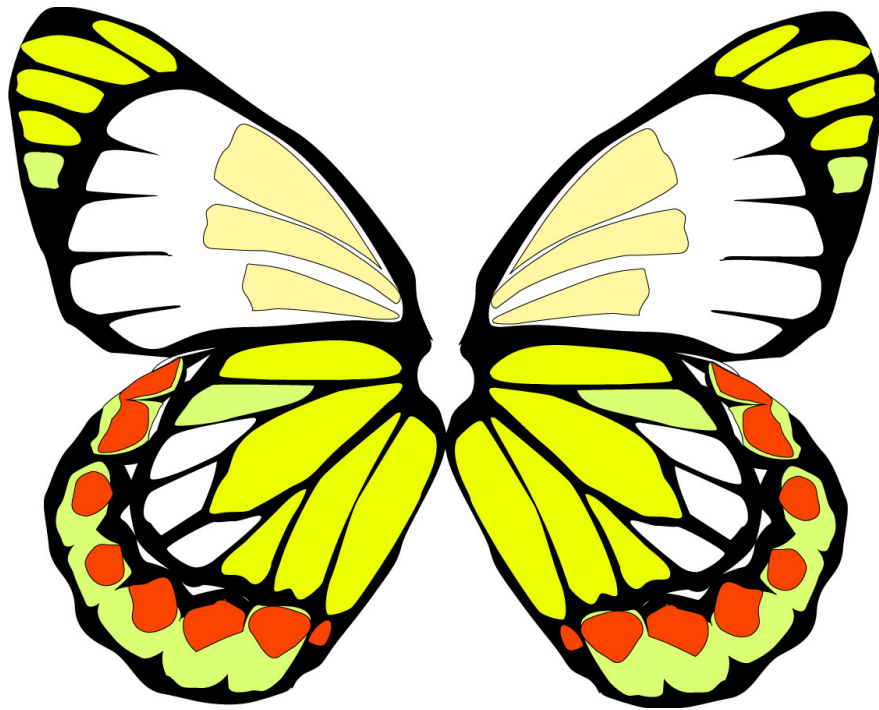
VINDULA EROTA
“THE CRUISER”

107



PAPILIO ULYSSES
BLUE SWALLOWTAIL

108



DELIAS
109



PRIAMUS BIRDWING
110

GROUP 2: METTJE'S FAVORITES

The patterns in this group are a collection of our favorites. These have been appreciated in schools and public spaces all over the US.





LEOPARD BUTTERFLY

202



PEACOCK BUTTERFLY

203



INDIAN LEAF
204



SUMMER
205



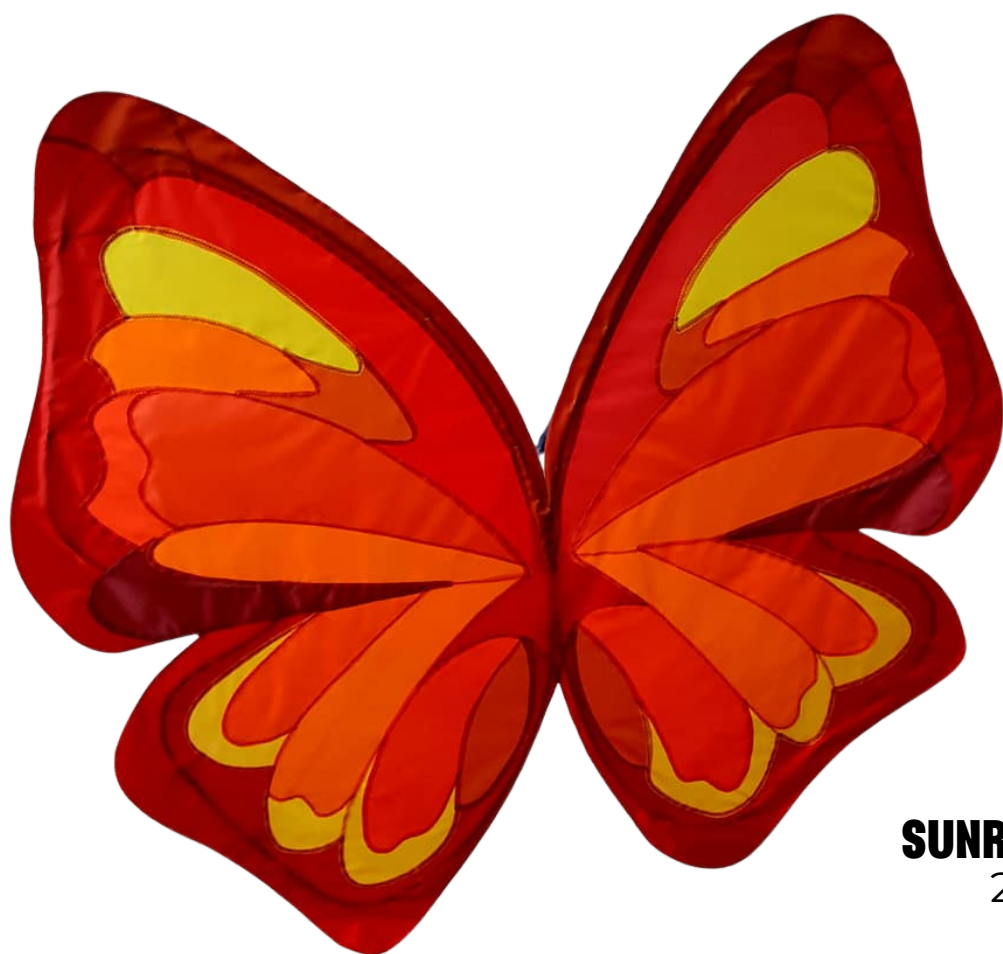
SPRING
206



SOUS
207



THE KNIGHT
208



SUNRISE
209

GROUP 3:

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES



MONARCH 1

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MONARCH 2

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ABSTRACT INDY MONARCH
303

SIZING & INSTALLATION



SAPHO LONGWING: 102

COMMISSIONING A PROJECT

FOR ARCHITECTURAL INSTALLATION

MINIMUM SIZING: 4FT X 4FT per butterfly

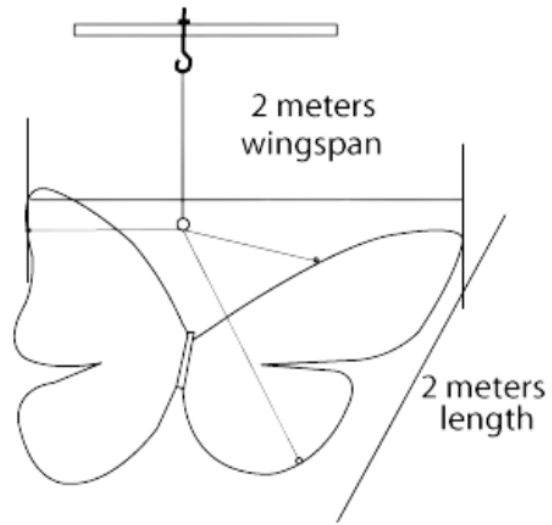
MINIMUM COST: \$5,000 per project

Each project features handcrafted and uniquely designed butterflies by Mettje. From the design phase to installation, these projects may span up to two months. We will assess your available space and lighting to identify the most suitable installation.

APPROXIMATE SIZING

WIDTH: WINGSPAN

The wingspan of the butterfly is determined by the size of the installation space. This is up to the discretion of the building architect or client.



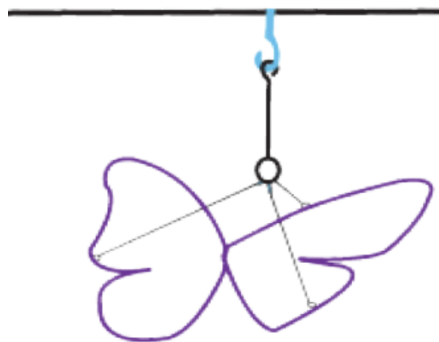
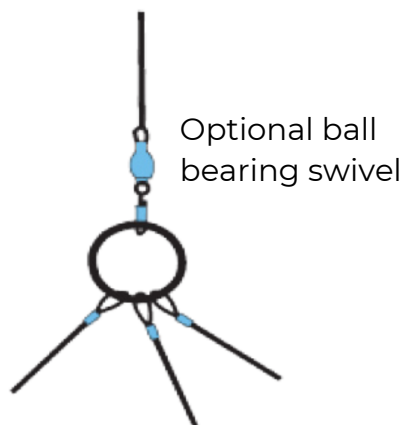
LENGTH:

The butterflies are about 1:1 width to length.

DEPTH:

The butterfly armature is originally welded to have depth, but is bent and sculpted to finalize the shape as the last step in fabrication. They can be shipped flat and bent into shape on-site before installation.

INSTALLATION OPTIONS



The cables are attached to the structural stainless steel tubing. The length of the cables adjusts the angles of the individual elements. Longer cables have more movement.

COMPLETED COMMISSIONS





Take a look at our Butterflies in action!
We are so pleased with the outcome of these commissions. Working with our clients is always a personalized process. We take into account each client's space, lighting, and vision for each piece. We can't wait to design and create for you, too!

TROPICAL BUTTERFLIES





The Tropical Butterfly sculptures were initially commissioned for Biosphere Potsdam, Germany in the autumn of 2023. These sculptures were unveiled during a special event at the Biosphere. Each sculpture represents the artist's unique interpretation of a tropical butterfly species. At times, the black colors were created for these butterflies by layering various darker colors, to create deep rich new colors which become more vivid under the glass roof and backlighting. The artist meticulously bent stainless steel tubing to form the frame of each butterfly, which was then covered with UV-resistant translucent nylon fabric.



BATESIA: 104

135 CM X 140 CM

BLUE MORPHEUS: 105

190 CM X 175 CM



PAPILIO MORMON : 103

180 CM X 150 CM

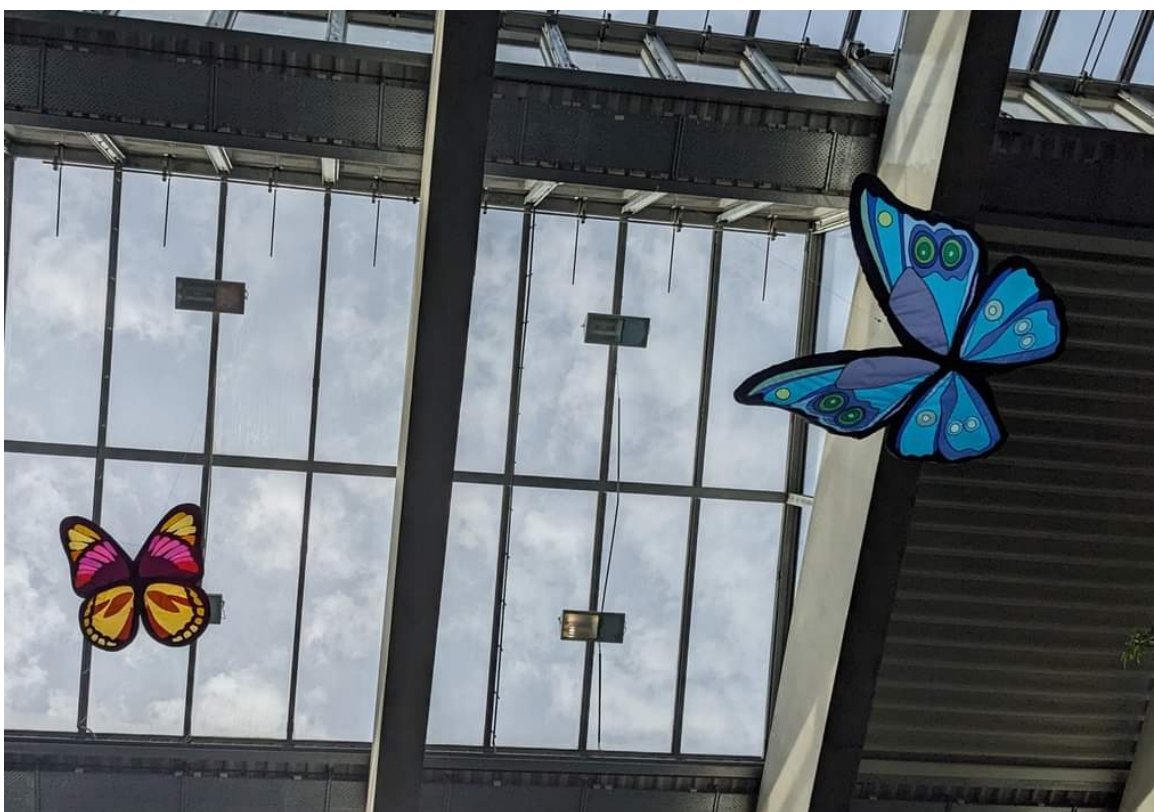


PRIAMUS BIRDWING: 110

150CM X 140 CM



BLUE MORPHEUS: 105
190 CM X 175 CM



BATESIA: 104
135 CM X 140 CM
BLUE MORPHEUS: 105
190 CM X 175 CM



VINDULA EROTA “THE CRUISER” : 107
165 CM X 145 CM



DELIAS: 310

145 CM X 145 CM



SAPHO LONGWING: 102
135 CM X 95 CM



BATESIA HYPOCHLORA : 104
140 CM X 150 CM

INDIANAPOLIS ZOO





A series of 23 butterfly sculptures were installed on the exterior walls of White River Gardens at Indianapolis Zoo in 2015. The installation features representations of butterflies from around the world, with 12 butterflies mounted on stainless steel "trees" and 11 wall-mounted sculptures. The artist Yves Lanthier contributed to the design, ensuring complementary works with a trompe-l'oeil effect. The installation aimed to create the illusion of butterflies flying into the building.



ABSTRACT INDY BUTTERFLIES

9 FT X 8.2 FT



ABSTRACT INDY BUTTERFLIES

9 FT X 8 FT



ABSTRACT INDY BUTTERFLIES OR /BLU

9 FT X 8.2 FT



ABSTRACT INDY BUTTERFLIES



ABSTRACT INDY BUTTERFLIES



ABSTRACT INDY BUTTERFLIES R-O /VIO

9 FT X 8.2 FT



ABSTRACT INDY BUTTERFLIES AT ZOO ENTRANCE



ABSTRACT INDY BUTTERFLIES

MOBILES



MONARCH: 301



The following section will display various hanging mobile butterfly installations. These large-scale mobiles feature multiple separate parts that are balanced with one another. Each part hangs from the ones above it, and the entire mobile is suspended from a single point on the ceiling. This open-style, traditional mobile art is ideal for filling atriums and hallways, utilizing available lighting to enhance the space.



A TRANSFORMATION

31 FT X 18 FT X 18 FT

MOBILE INSTALLATION

TERREBONNE MEDICAL CENTER, HOUMA, OK



BUTTERFLY AND WATER DROPLETS
POLAQUIMIA: MEXICO CITY, MX



FLUTTERBY HALLWAY
CRYSTAL RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CARBONDALE, CO

MISC. PROJECTS





Our Butterflies are adaptable and shine in any environment. We guarantee that the artwork you receive will harmonize perfectly with your space and lighting. Explore some commissioned pieces showcasing the different ways our Butterflies can be displayed.



SUNSET TRIO
MEDICAL CENTER



SUNSET TRIO
IN STUDIO



SUMMER
IN STUDIO



HAPPY HANDS EDUCATION CENTER
SCHOOL HALLWAY, BROKEN ARROW, OK



A TRANSFORMATION

31 FT X 18 FT X 18 FT

MOBILE INSTALLATION PROCESS

TERREBONNE MEDICAL CENTER, HOUMA, OK



ATRIUM BUTTERFLY INSTALLATION
HAWAII



OUTDOOR BUTTERFLY BANNERS
KILLEEN TEXAS KIDZ THERAPEZE SCHOOL

SSFCROPP

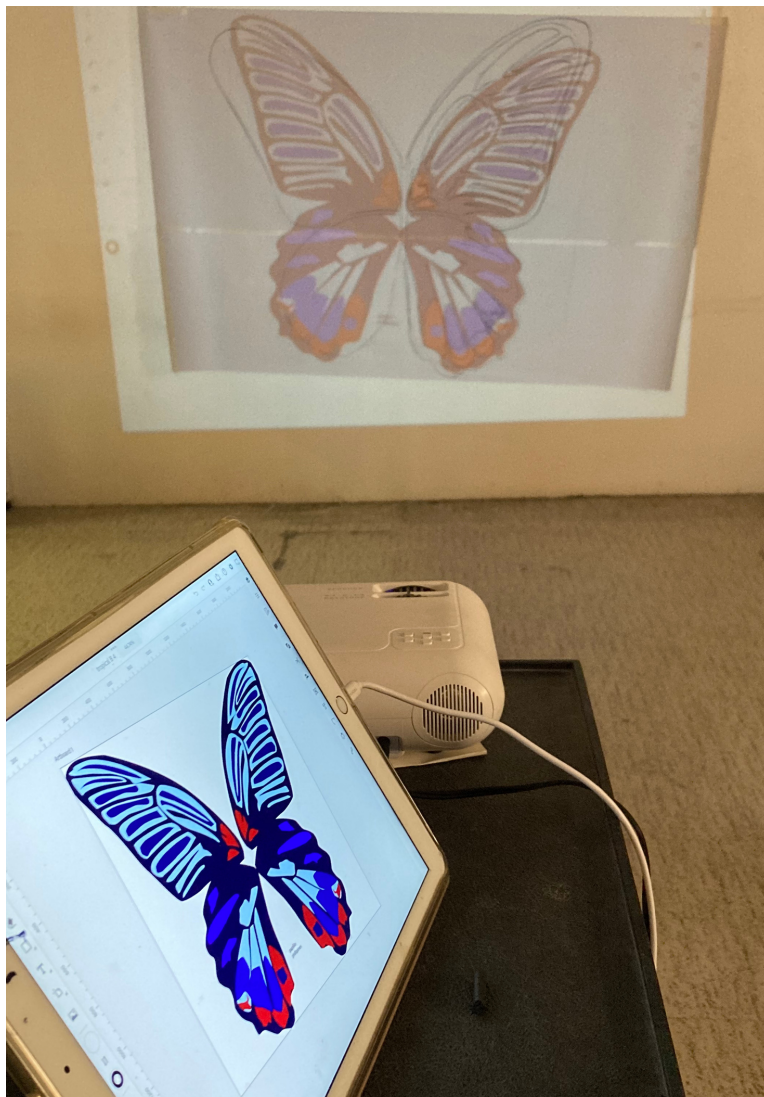




The following pages will show images from the creation process of our Butterflies. I have to sing the praises of my team for their admirable craftsmanship. Each butterfly begins with an original design, based off a real species of tropical butterfly. From there, a pattern is created, colored fabrics are chosen and cut from the pattern, pieces are basted and sewn together, and a metal frame is constructed.



I start by designing my artwork in Illustrator. I project the design onto the pattern at full-scale, the final size of the piece. I complete the pattern on paper.





The fabric is hot cut using the pattern. Instead of blacks, I chose to layer several dark colors to create depth within my finished pieces. At times, we were cutting through four layers of fabric!





Each piece of fabric is fitted together on the pattern, basted, pinned and sewn along a narrow border between the pieces.





The armature, the sculpted frame, is hand bent by Mettje for each butterfly using stainless steel tubing.







The bent tubing 'body' can be seen well here. The tapestry of the butterfly is fitted onto the frame and stitched by hand.



PRIAMUS BIRDWING:110
VINDULA EROTA: 107

The Tropical Butterflies hanging in our Colorado studio. The butterflies move on ball bearing swivels.



In-Studio images of our butterflies before installation.

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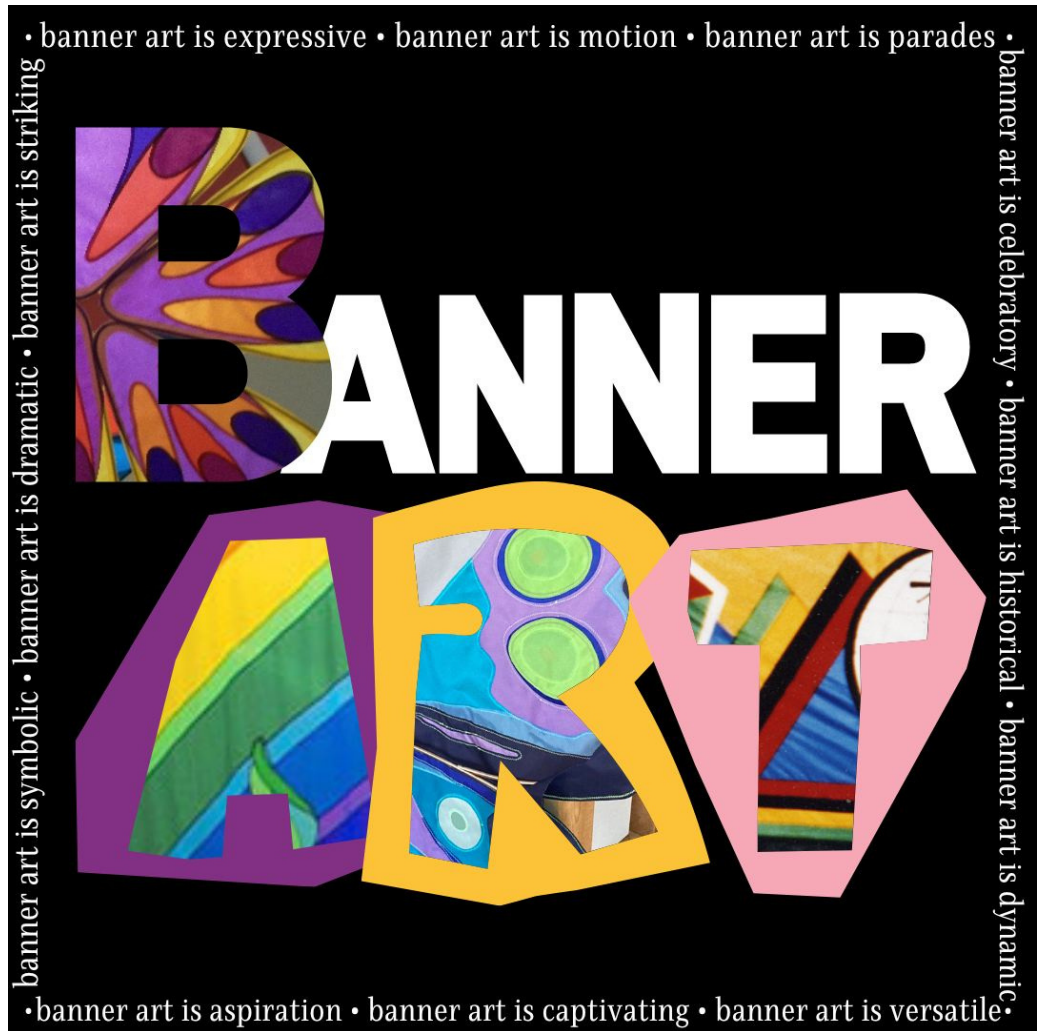
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CONTACT



To order our butterflies, please call or visit our website to submit an artist consultation request. Please include your name, contact info, and general project information. Mettje will be in touch with you as soon as possible to work out the details.

METTJE SWIFT: BANNER ART STUDIO



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