



BIOGRAPHY: Ned Kahn

Contact:

Bill Schlageter, Director of Marketing

(412) 586-6023

Ned Kahn is a California-based environmental artist and sculptor whose work makes natural forces visible by using elements such as water, wind, fire and sand. With a degree in environmental science, he spent the first fourteen years of his career as an exhibit designer at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. In *Tornado*, a piece first implemented at the Exploratorium in 1990, he used fans and fog to create a gently swirling vortex in a room-sized installation for observers to interact with. For a pavilion at the 2000 World's Fair in Hannover Germany, he created a seven-story-high version in collaboration with German architect Uwe Bruckner. Kahn created twenty-foot-high swirling flames in *Fire Vortex*, a 1997 piece at Technorama in Switzerland. A number of his pieces, such as *Wind Veil* of 2000 in Charlotte North Carolina, make the movement of the wind visible as it flows over a surface of moveable parts. "Articulated Cloud," his piece on the façade of the Pittsburgh Children's Museum, is part of this series, though it is unique in that it covers all four sides of the building. Kahn has received numerous awards for his work. He won a [MacArthur Foundation "genius grant"](#) fellowship in 2003, and the [National Design Award](#) for environmental design in 2005.