Kaleidoscreen Sculpture

ASPEN, CO

Originally installed near the swimming pool at the Aspen Institute campus, *Kaleidoscreen* is seven-foot tall and twelve-foot-wide rotatable sculpture created to provide sunbathers shade and to protection from the sun and wind. It was created in 1957 by Bauhaus artist Herbert Bayer in partnership with ALCOA, an American aluminum company, as part of an experiment for the usage of aluminum in modern art and architecture. After moving to the Aspen area in 1946, Bayer left an indelible mark on the art, architecture, and design in the area, including numerous of the buildings and artworks on the Aspen Institute campus, including *Kaleidoscreen*.

The sculpture utilized seven prefabricated, multi-colored, textural sheet-metal panels, which were equipped with a manual gear system that allowed for the panels to rotate 180-degrees in unison. Manipulation of the panels allowed the viewer to control the amount of sun and wind that was radiated or diffused by the sculpture. The original color palette is representative of a mid-century style typical of a 1950's theme, which uses a juxtaposition of neutral with vibrant colors. The combination of metallic leaf is a nod to the art deco style, but in a modern reinterpretation. The sculpture was taken off display in the early 1990s and placed into storage. In 2000 it was restored and installed by a local contractor on the hillside above the Aspen Meadows Reception Center.

In 2022, our conservators were contracted by the Aspen Institute to perform three tasks on the the Kaleidoscreen sculpture, which were all geared towards supporting potential future conservation efforts. The first was to assess and document the the current conditions of the sculpture...

MORE INFORMATION:
https://evergreene.com/projects/kaleidoscreen-sculpture/

SERVICES PERFORMED

Conservation Treatments
Decorative Painting & Finishes
Gilding
Historic Finishes Investigation
Investigation, Testing & Analysis
Microscopy & Material ID

PROJECT DETAILS

Client
Aspen Institute