



**JOHN DAVID MOONEY**

**RESUME**

**114 W. Kinzie St., Chicago, IL 60654**

**Phone: (312) 822-0483 Fax: (312) 222-4119 E-mail: [jdmstudio@aol.com](mailto:jdmstudio@aol.com)**

Artist John David Mooney, actively involved in public art and as an environmental artist, creates large-scale sculptures and site-specific interventions around the +world. His work embraces the history of a site and through dialogue with the client, the architects, and the community, the artist designs aesthetic solutions which are original, unique and memorable.

**EDUCATION:**

Master of Fine Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.  
Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Notre Dame

**TEACHING:**

Distinguished Professor/Critic, College of Architecture, University of North Carolina, Charlotte  
Visiting Critic, Department of Landscape Architecture, Purdue University  
Visiting Critic, College of Architecture, Ball State University  
Distinguished Professor/Scholar in the Fine Arts, University of Southern Indiana  
National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland  
Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, Scotland  
Graduate School of Fine Arts, Villa Schifanoia, Florence, Italy  
Graduate School of Art, Royal College of Art, London  
Hornsey College of Art, London,  
The School of the Architectural Association, London  
College of Art, Middlesex Polytechnic, London  
Syracuse University, London  
College of Architecture, South Bank Polytechnic, London  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
University of Notre Dame

**HONORS and AWARDS:**

Honorary Doctorates have been awarded to the artist by:  
Purdue University in Landscape Architecture  
Dominican University, Doctor of Arts  
Lyon College, Doctor of Humane Letters  
Commencement Speaker, The School of the Art Institute  
International Humanitarian Award, Illinois Institute of Technology and Kent College of Law  
Award of Excellence from the American Institute of Architects, Miami Chapter  
Distinguished Alumnus, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
Chicago Illini of the Year, Chicago Alumni Club and University of Illinois Alumni Association  
Alumni Association of the University of Notre Dame for distinguished contributions in the Fine Arts

Artist-in-Residence, Vatican Observatory, Castel Gandolfo, Italy  
Designated a “Distinguished Artist” by the Union League Club of Chicago  
Invited by Pope Benedict XVI as one of 262 artists from around the world, to meet in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, 2009  
First Artist to receive *Aesthetics in Technology* award, an interdisciplinary program, Colleges of Engineering, Purdue University; Artist-in-Residence, Purdue University  
Keynote Speaker, Royal Incorporation of the Architects of Scotland Annual Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts, England  
National Council for Educational Awards, Ireland  
National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship  
Illinois Arts Council Fellowship  
Indiana Arts Commission Fellowship  
Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts Fellowship  
Paul Waterbury Award for Outdoor Lighting Design, Illuminating Engineering Society of North America  
Chicago Illumination Design Award, Illuminating Engineering Society of North America  
MacDowell Colony Fellow, four times

**SELECTED COLLECTIONS:** Museum of Modern Art, NYC; The Art Institute of Chicago, the Crawford Gallery of Art, Cork, Ireland; Galerije Grada Zagreba, Croatia, and numerous other public and private collections.

**Mooney** has created large-scale site-specific art works, including architecture and landscape interventions for such clients as The U.S. State Department, The Vatican Observatory, the British Foreign Office, the IBM Corporation, American Airlines, the Miami International Airport and the City of Chicago, as well as a “command performance” for her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Large-scale public works commissioned include the *Malta Millennium* by the government of Malta, *Stardance®* for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, and *Prelude in Light* for the Australian Bicentennial.

**Founder:**

Devoted to art’s ability to improve the quality of life, break down barriers, ensure a cultural heritage, and perhaps most importantly, build healthy communities, Mooney established the **John David Mooney Foundation**, a non-profit public organization that provides a unique post-graduate advanced interdisciplinary study program in the Fine Arts. More than 675 graduates worldwide have participated in this tutorial experience which emphasizes the responsibility of the artist to society. The Foundation also presents the work of international artists to Chicago through its *International Currents* exhibitions and offers artist in residencies to international artists, providing a base for dialogue and collaboration with Chicago artists.

**Recent Works:**

Mooney’s sculptures combine science, art and evoke historical context by honoring the site’s first inhabitants. This is seen in recent works: ***Wild Ricing Moon***, a 95’ high sculpture located in front of the Swenson Science Building at the University of Minnesota Duluth which honors the Ojibwe people. The sculpture was inspired by the moon which announces harvest time for the wild rice crop on which the Ojibwe people’s livelihood depends. In addition, a garden of wild

rice was planted at the base of the sculpture to emphasize this special relationship to nature and its gift of survival.

Another of Mooney's cosmological based light sculptures, ***Catching the Equinox*** used solar-powered lanterns to create a work marking the equinox. It was germane to the site, relevant to the history of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and honors St. James, one of the original 12 apostles. In addition, it refers to the tower of Hercules and the constellation of Hercules which is overhead at the time of the autumnal equinox. *Catching the Equinox*, like *Wild Ricing Moon*, is an astronomical marker which defines solar noon on the equinox and solstice as well as a time piece marking two hours prior to and after solar noon. The importance of honoring our star, the sun, is emphasized by Mooney's use of solar-powered luminaries which define his iconic image. The solar-powered LuminAids were invented in Chicago which Mooney took with him to Spain to create his drawing and light sculpture.

#### **Current Project (Sustainable Sculpture):**

***New Harmony***, is another cosmological piece and solar collector on a much grander scale than the solar collectors used in Santiago. Mooney was commissioned by New Harmony, Indiana to create an entrance sculpture in which he transitioned from *Catching the Equinox's* six inch square luminary to a 16 ft. 6 inch square photo-voltaic panel.

Working with the community and their desire for a garden, Mooney envisioned a garden of 270 solar collectors taking the entire town off the electric grid. Mooney's research revealed that the earliest settlers of New Harmony, the Mississippian people (1900-1200 AD) had as their indigenous crop, the sunflower, which was their source of food and oil. Archeology revealed that Mississippian people based their life actions on cosmological phenomena, constructing giant solar rings called wood henges which revealed the time to plant and harvest their crops among other community rituals. Inspired by these early astronomical constructions Mooney designed his solar park in concentric rings with a total of 270 photo-voltaic panels. This Energy as Art used the rotation of the sunflower as inspiration to make the 16 '6" solar panels rotate with the sun's position, an invention whose hydraulic elbow could revolutionize the "green industry." At the center of the solar park is his Milky Way sculpture, a 125 ft. long light sculpture, also powered by the solar collectors. At its base is an astronomy park with both a solar and lunar garden and an information center to explain the technology of the solar collectors.

**Full list of and documentation of projects are available upon request.**



<https://www.mooneyfoundation.org/>