

# Unexpected ARTWORK

◀ Gathering Rise 1

| By **BETSY DEMITROPOULOS** |

## Creating art is something Bob Krawczyk has to do.

The St. Charles-area sculptor and digital artist doesn't know what he'd do without a creative outlet that gives him a break from daily life.

By day, Krawczyk is a professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology in the college of architecture focusing on digital craftsmanship. He's also the associate dean of undergraduate academic affairs and an advisor in the PhD and master's programs on form generation and other related digital-design methods.

When he's not on campus teaching architecture to students, Krawczyk is creating art. He started exhibiting his sculptures and digital artwork in the late 1990s and makes use of current technology in his pieces.

Krawczyk's art explores the potential of using digital media as a conceptual generator and

as a production method. He writes software that generates images and sculptures, as well as software that explores multiple series of a single concept or idea.

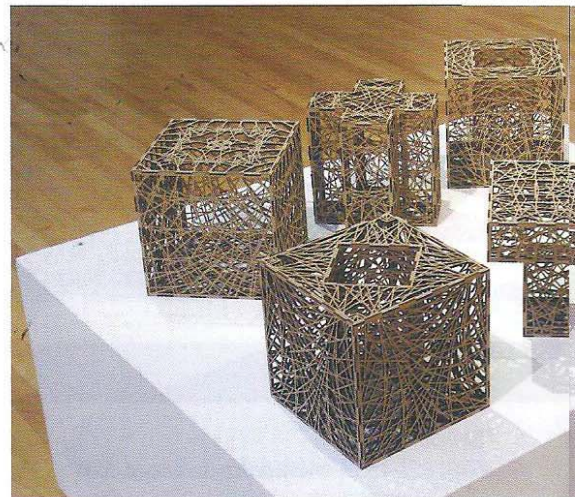
"The software enables me to express and produce any idea I wish," he says. "It helps me to better understand the underlying concepts of my work, as well as produce exceedingly unexpected results.

"As with conceptual artists such as Sol LeWitt, the concept, in my case expressed in the software, becomes primary," he adds. "The results are an interesting byproduct."

Krawczyk's overall interest is to investigate methods that can develop images and forms that are in one sense predictable, but have the element to generate the unexpected — thus, the unexpected in a predictable way. The custom software becomes the instructions for producing the work itself.

"My primary focus is in developing methods and instructions and leaving the production to the computer — laser cutters and 3-D printers," he says.

Highlights of Krawczyk's digital artwork have been exhibited in the SIGGRAPH 2003 Art Gallery, the 2004 Rockford Midwestern Exhibition, the Chicago ArtFutura Exhibition of American Art 2005 and 2006, the Chicago Sculpture



International's 2006, 2008 and 2010 Biennials, and the Chicago Art Loop Open 2010.

Krawczyk is the founding gallery director for art @ IIT, a campus gallery with a focus on the art of technology. Over a period of three years, he's curated and installed 22 exhibits at the campus gallery.

Locally, Krawczyk is a showing artist for Gallery 28 in Geneva, and he is a non-resident member of Water Street Studios in Batavia.

Krawczyk gets a tremendous amount of personal fulfillment from his sculptures and digital artwork, even though it's something he feels like he has to do. His happiness drives him.

"I love the satisfaction of taking an idea I have and developing it into something visual," he says.

### 'POP-UP' STUDIO

Krawczyk's artwork is a product of a different type of medium, and he has found an avenue as unique as his work in the neXt



◀ Path Votives





◀ Stick Lamp

Gallery in St. Charles.

The neXt gallery program is a newer initiative of the St. Charles Arts Council designed to create energy, excitement and opportunities for artists to showcase and be compensated for their talent — in a different framework than a typical gallery.

The program promotes local and regional artists, the SCAC and the St. Charles business community and is called neXt gallery because you never know where it will “pop up” next, says Elizabeth Bellaver, co-founder and president of the SCAC.

And no two neXt gallery art shows are the same, she says.

“Each neXt gallery features different artists, a different location/space and a different theme,” she says.

The first neXt gallery show took place last summer. Since then, there have been five shows, which included invite-only and

juried events. The fifth show, entitled “This Goes to 11,” is going on now through June 24 at 121 N. Second St. in St. Charles. The artwork showcased is for sale.

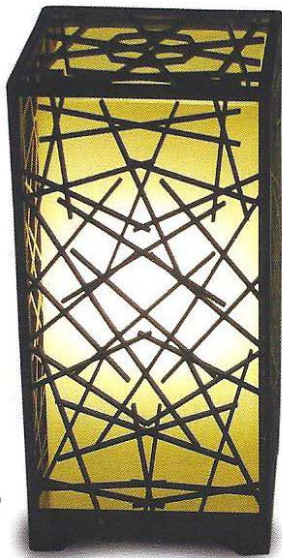
While not participating in the current show, the neXt gallery program is one of Krawczyk’s favorites, and he’s participated in three of its galleries.

He says the neXt Gallery has been

successful at attracting a number of people from the community who have a great affinity and enthusiasm for a wide range of artistic work.

“For me, personally, having my work judged technically and academically by my peers is great,” he says.

“But it is even more exciting to have the local community simply enjoy my work for purely aesthetic reasons and for the sheer fun of attending art galleries.”



▶ Stick Lamp

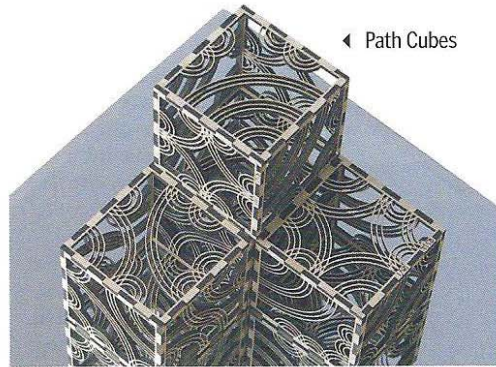


**Bob Krawczyk**

## Gallery Hours For “THIS GOES TO 11”

Gallery hours will vary depending on volunteer interest. The gallery will feature the work of 11 local artists and will be curated by Laura Spicer. Tom Anderson and Anderson Colonial Real Estate Holdings partnered with the SCAC in the N. Second Street space.

Exhibitors include Audia, Greta Bell, Soo Chang, Fawn Clarke-Peterson, John Granata, Rita Grendze, Vesna Jovanovic, Steven Lockwood, Ken Overstreet, Kai Schulte and Dawn Tutt. For more information, call 630-443-3794 or visit [www.stcharlesartscouncil.com](http://www.stcharlesartscouncil.com). *kc*



◀ Path Cubes

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