

FOSSIL THUNDER

Final Hoorah

ZAK H ZAKOVI

2017



PROLOGUE

Fossil Thunder is a huge 21 foot tall x 19 foot wide x by 9 foot long stone and steel sculpture weighing over 6000 pounds that was started in 2009. The same year I founded the Bozeman Sculpture Park (BSP) the first outdoor sculpture display area in town, located on the Library's 5 acer site.

The piece went through several evolutions. First the central stone was a 28 column of stone which broke when it was nearly done while lifting it. This stone is a sandy limestone that looks like sand stone in color and texture yet is hard enough to hold texture, sharp edges and even polish. See Stone note**.

I was determined to have a large stone sculpture of my own in the Park's first inaugural exhibition after working on the Park for 2 years. When the stone broke I started over again with another long stone but could not meet the show's deadline. I was building the piece at the crane company's yard to get a better rate on crane service. By 2010 the central stone was complete with its stone comb like slab and steel filigree in heroic scale connected to the steel rim around the comb and tumbling down and out which always reminds me of laughter. I had also completed a scale model mock-up of the finished piece so I could study and make changes without handling tons of stone. The second stone another thicker and shorter column backed up the central stone and added mass, it also allowed me to begin the carved graphics and to polish a few areas. After mounting it with a steel connection that would allow lifting and fastening a diagonal brace stone. The graphics became almost tattoo like embellishing that stone with circles, squares, arrows and bands. Just as I located the precast rectangular and circular foundations and was studying how to stand and support these huge stones I realized I had to give up the stone yard and move Fossil Thunder* in progress and a semi load of stone inventory to my studio and get going on a back log of commission work and studio improvement needs. So the sculpture was stacked and stored outside the studio with all the other stones for 4 long years before I could get back to it.

It was also in 2017 that I learned over the past 30 + years of working wood and stone I had developed COPD. The doctors / specialists put me on oxygen part time and heavy meds warning continued stone dust could kill or cripple me. Stone working was over! As I prepared to sell my property a colleague and founder of Art on Main Street came by - after seeing the Fossil Thunder stones and the scale model of it he wanted to help me finish the piece and install it at his place west of town. Tate Chamberlin also wanted to try stone cutting as the brackets needed to me jointed onto the stones and he was interested in watching me do the welding to learn some tricks in steel. We worked part time for 4 months as you will see in this Photo essay.

The last stone which had not been selected and the steel work to support it (get it to hang in the air) is shorter column with all natural faces a broken end and a feather cut end adds a sense of calm due to the stoic horizontal positioning while giving a sense of tension due to a 1200 pound stone hanging midair.

This book is a celebration of my last and largest sculpture ending a 20 journey of stone working. It is my final hoorah.

*The title Fossil Thunder came from my thinking of the stone columns as bones and Thunder implies an explosion – big sound. Together there is an incongruous meaning, out of place and wonder. I liked thinking of the piece as large as Thunder yet as steady and permanent as stone bones.

**Stone Note: long before the Rocky Mts. an inland fresh water sea the Niobrara Sea divided the continent in half. The plant life run offs and critters provided the calcium carbonate to glue the deep beds of sediments washed in the sea then pressed into layers of stone. These bed where pushed up when the mountains forming blocks, slabs and sticks of limestone that are quarried in central Montana today.

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Maquette / Concept

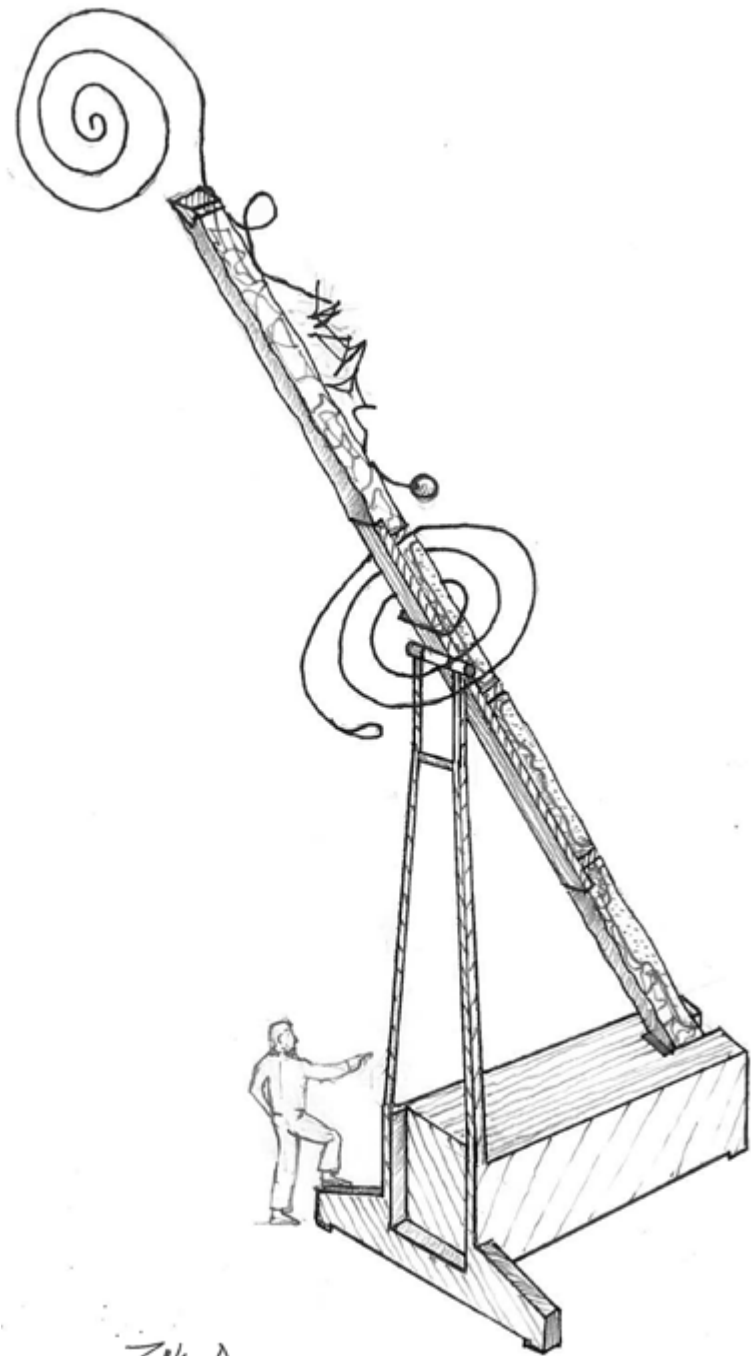
Studio Setup

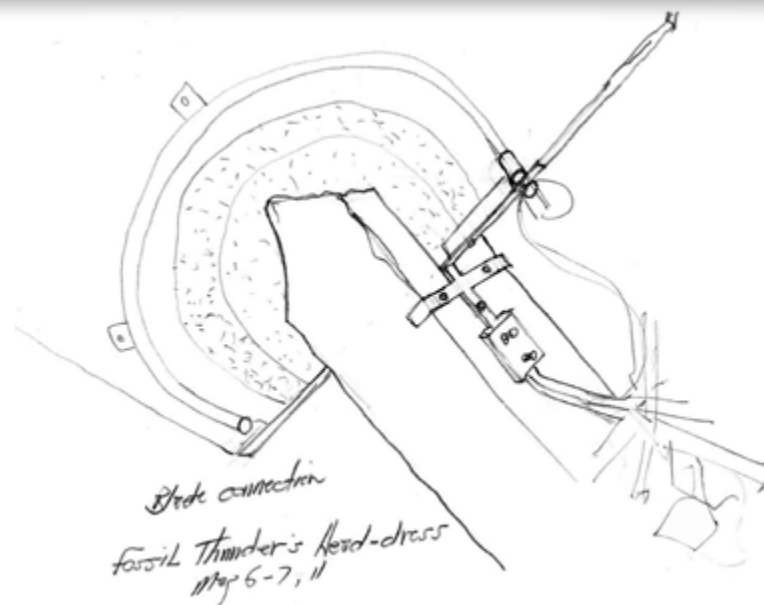
Disassembly and Loading for Transport to Location

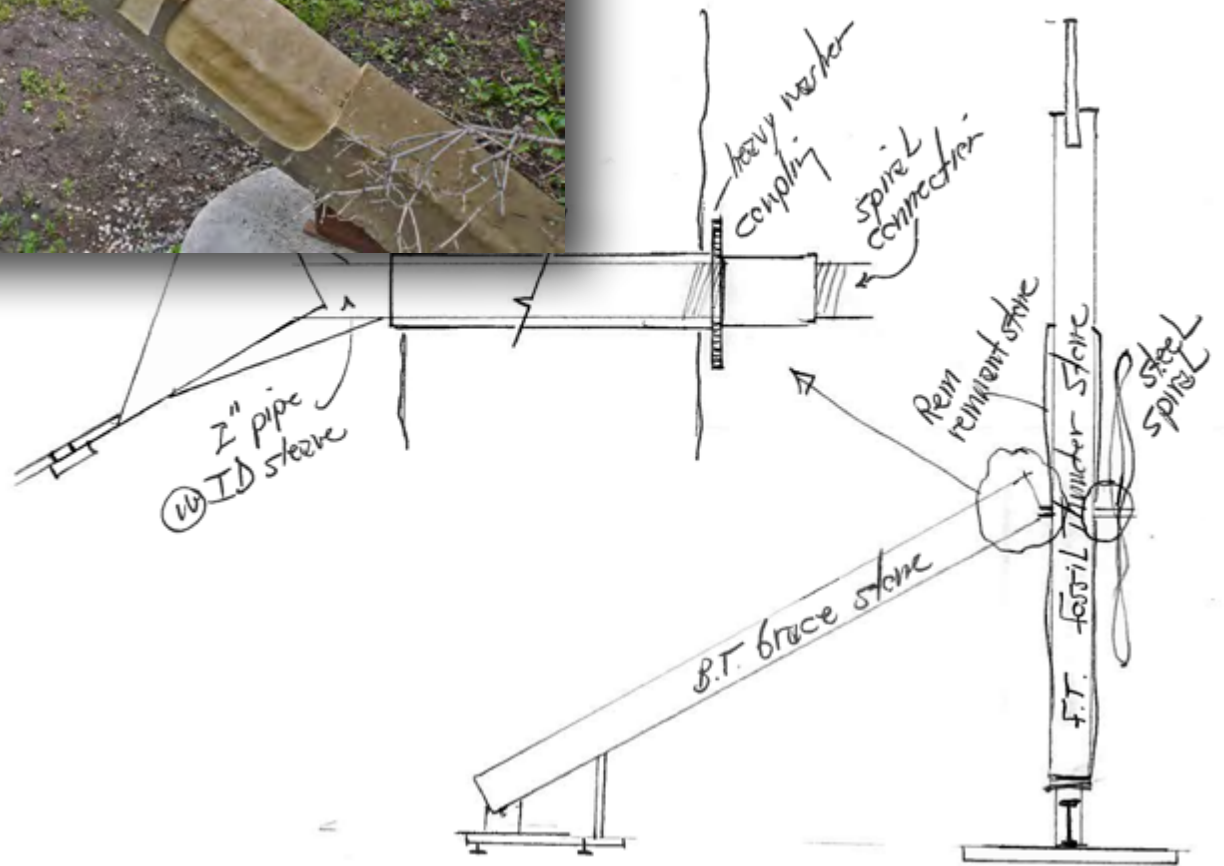
Site Preparations

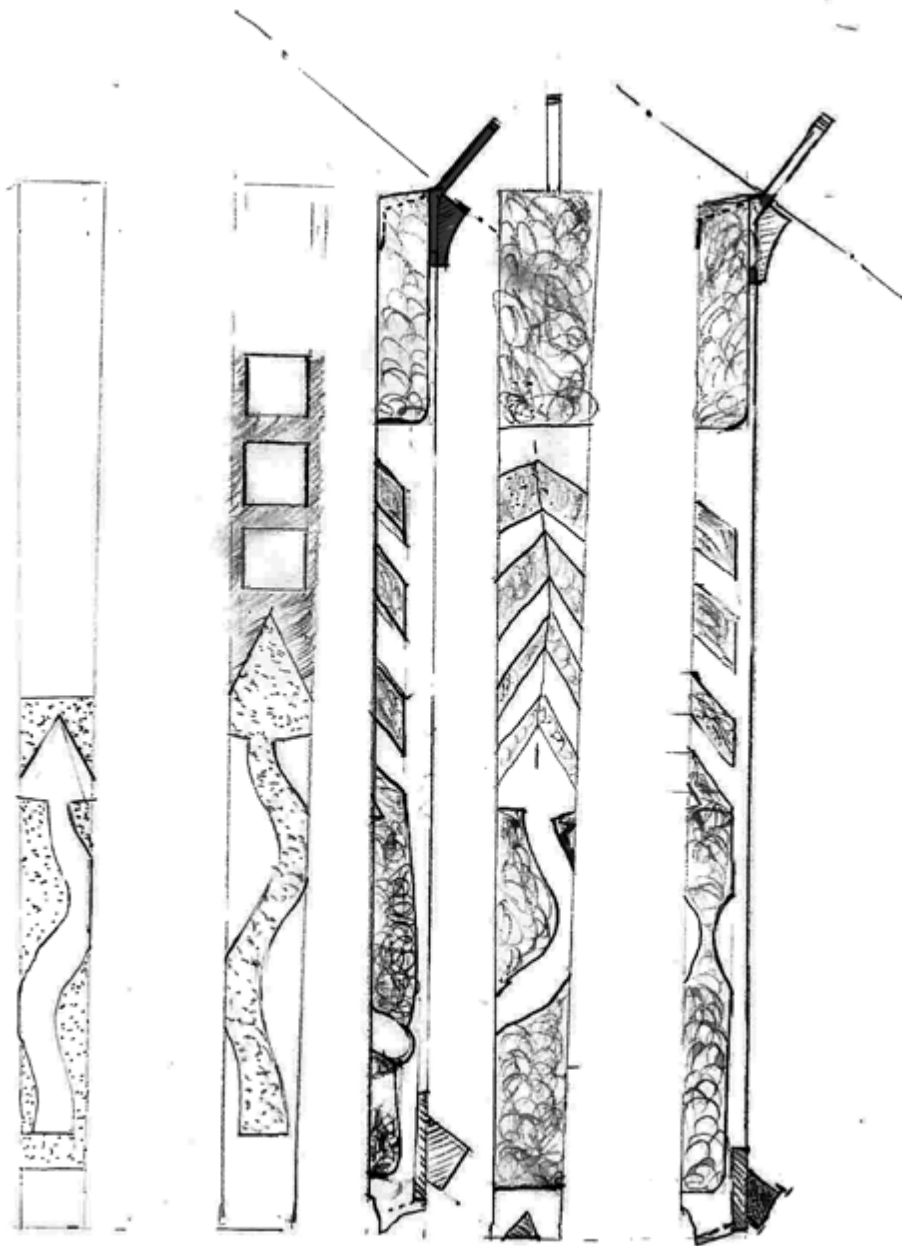
Completed Installation on site





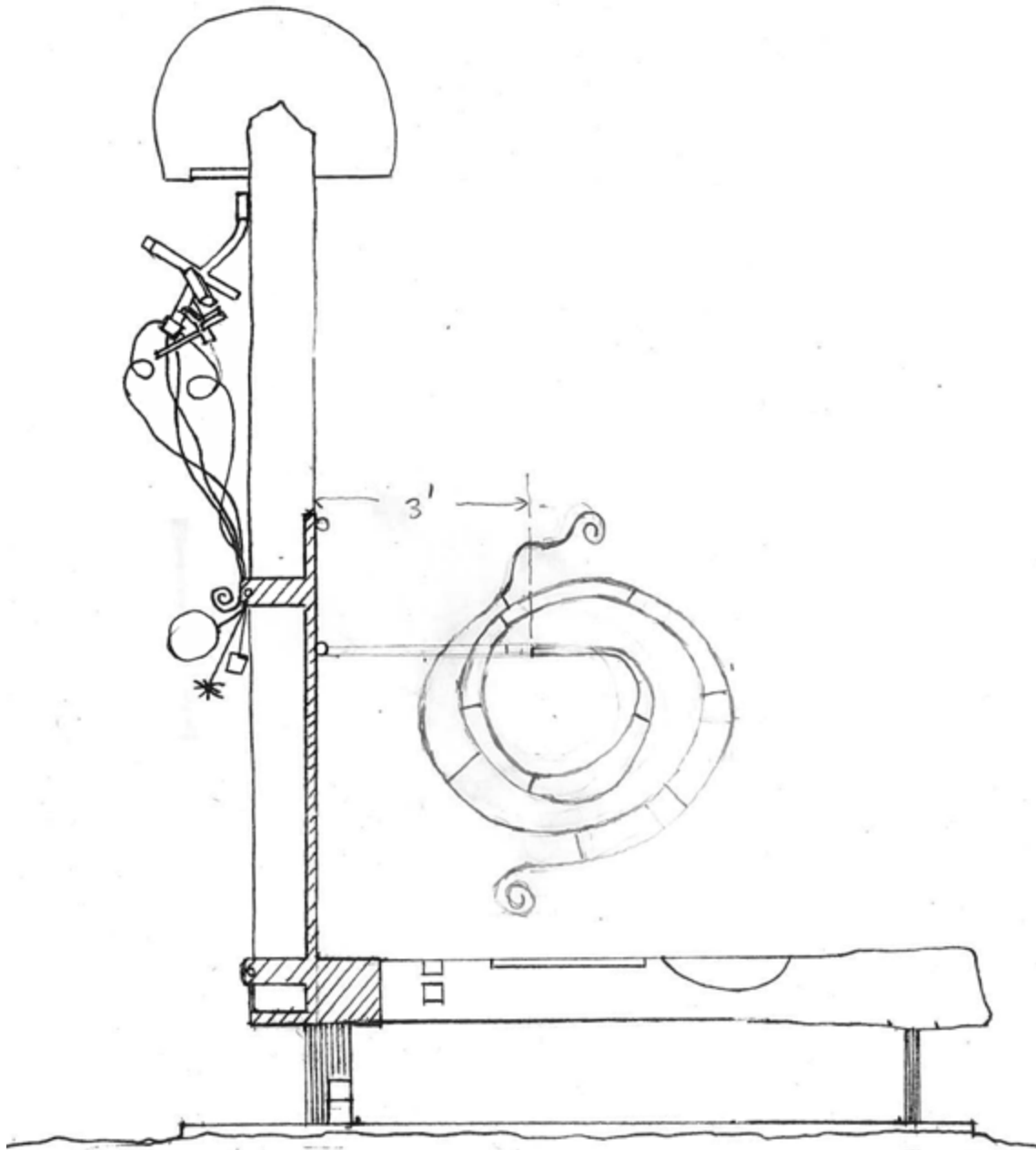






ZAK
Brace stone graphic Sept 2011





























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