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Sunnyvale: What are those large red things on Mathilda Avenue?

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Residents traveling down North Mathilda Avenue may have noticed the red, serpentine art piece that was installed a year ago and may have also noticed a larger but similar-looking piece along the street outside the LinkedIn and Apple Inc. office buildings a month ago.

So what exactly are those sinuous crimson figures?

A third piece is coming later this summer to the Mathilda Avenue office complex that sits between Maude and Del Ray avenues. The installations were done by Malibu-

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based artist Jon Krawczyk. Each section is made of multiple painted steel panels that are put together to create the illusion of one large ribbon.

The smallest section weighs about 6,000 pounds, the largest piece weighs about 25,000 pounds and the final piece is expected to weigh roughly 15,000 pounds.

Other than being eye-catching to motorists, Krawczyk said, he wanted to pair the large office buildings with a piece of art that was more playful and free flowing. He wanted to contrast the image of the hard sciences and engineering that come to mind in Silicon Valley with something bright, “fluid and sort of fun.”

When the final installation is complete, all the ribbons will “link” together to create one form that will flow along the length of the campus, the idea being the finished product will look like a ribbon weaving between the buildings and reappearing in front of them.

“The third piece will be between the two buildings and jumps over the wall of the internal campus, in the middle of the other two. The idea is like if you had a child running with a ribbon and its twisting and turning in the wind, and I want it to look like it jumps up, then disappears, then jumps back up and disappears,” said Krawczyk. Krawczyk works mostly with steel and has been creating public and corporate art projects since the mid-1990s. The third portion of his work will be transported up to Sunnyvale in sections, with an 18-wheeler truck hauling the largest pieces.

The final piece of the sculpture will have an element that Krawczyk includes in many of his sculptures: a time capsule filled with objects representing current events in the world. The capsules are included in many of his sculptures, though he said that they are impossible to reach and will never be opened by him. He wishes anyone trying to open one the best of luck.

“It’s made of so much heavy duty material, they’d have their work cut out for them,” he says.

The artwork can be found near 599 N. Mathilda Ave.