

1.26 Janet Echelman





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Denver Biennial of the Americas, July 2010

Civic Center Park, between the
Denver Art Museum and Greek Amphitheater.

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Description: *1.26*, Janet Echelman's monumental installation to commemorate the first Biennial of the Americas, engages with issues of temporality and interconnectedness surrounding the *1.26*-micro-second shortening of the day that resulted from the February 2010 Chile earthquake's redistribution of the earth's mass. A large netted aerial sculpture – inspired by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) simulation of the earthquake's ensuing tsunami – floats high above the traffic of downtown Denver, suspended between Civic Center Park's Greek Amphitheater and the Denver Art Museum.

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In the course of researching *1.26*, Echelman consulted with scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the NOAA Center for Tsunami Research to obtain data from which her studio generated the first 3D model of the tsunami. She then used her proprietary net-building software to transform an outline of the model's higher amplitude area into a knotted sculptural form. This artwork utilizes Spectra® fiber, a material 15 times stronger than steel by weight. The 80 ft. long sculpture is suspended 93 ft. above street level.

1.26 was commissioned by the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs Public Art Program and realized through the artist's collaboration with a team of award winning engineers, architects, artists, fabricators, and installers.



July 6, 2010 begins the installation of the sculpture, which once installed will be accessible for public viewing in Civic Center Park, 24 hours a day, seven days a week until July 31, 2010. Each night, it will be illuminated from 9pm to 6am. More information about events and lectures: www.denvergov.org/publicart, www.echelman.com

Bio: Janet Echelman reshapes urban airspace with monumental, fluidly moving sculpture that responds to environmental forces including wind, water, and sunlight. This year she premiered *Water Sky Garden* at the Vancouver Olympic Winter Games, and she completed 2009's largest US public art commission, *Her Secret is Patience*, a new civic icon for Phoenix that has been hailed for contributing to the revitalization of its downtown. Echelman's 160-foot-tall waterfront *She Changes* in Portugal was called "one of the truly significant public artworks in recent years" by *Sculpture Magazine*. Her art has been presented in Spain, Italy, Portugal, Lithuania, India, Japan, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Canada, Mexico, and the US. She graduated from Harvard College and completed graduate degrees in psychology and painting, yet is an autodidact in sculpture.

A recipient of fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Pollock-Krasner Foundation, Japan Foundation, Rotary International Foundation, Harvard Graduate School of Design Loeb Fellowship, Aspen Institute Henry Crown Fellowship, and a Fulbright Senior Lectureship, she currently serves on the national board of the Fulbright Association and the Aspen Institute Energy and Environment Awards.

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