

History & the Arts

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ART IN UNFAMILIAR PLACES

ROADWAY BOOGIE WOOGIE

For many motorists, the drive along Florida's Turnpike can be a long, monotonous journey. But for those driving by the Turkey Lake Service Plaza in Orange County, the whimsical site-specific sculpture, *Roadway Boogie Woogie* affords a surprising visual delight. Fourteen kinetic sculptures of painted steel, ranging in height from 12 to 25 feet and in width from 5 to 15 feet, intrigue passers-by as they playfully dance with the wind. These colorful, sculptural weathervanes were specifically designed for passing motorists, but are as equally impressive to the stationary viewer.

Roadway Boogie Woogie, also referred to as Garden of Motion, is the imaginative creation of collaborative artists Tim Watkins and Carol May from Brooklyn, New York. "The Turkey Lake Service Plaza site presented a number of challenges," explains Tim Watkins. "We needed to deal with both the scale of the site, and have the piece be readable for an audience travelling at 50 to 70 miles per hour. Our solution is a garden of color and movement, with a dash of whimsy, that changes with the direction of the prevailing winds." The artists have designed numerous outdoor installations around the country, using similarly kinetic elements, powered by the natural forces of sun, wind, rain or tide.



Roadway Boogie Woogie is installed on the north end of the Turkey Lake Plaza at Mile Post 263 on Florida's Turnpike. The Turnpike District Headquarters and Support Facilities, stationed at the Turkey Lake Plaza, commissioned the work as part of Florida's Art in State Buildings Program.