Spiral Odyssey

Charlotte, United States of America

Charlotte’s public art scene just grew — more than a little — with the May 13 installation of Chicago-based artist Richard Hunt’s “Spiral Odyssey” in Romare Bearden Park. This work has a special connection to Romare Bearden. The artist, Richard Hunt, was a contemporary of Bearden. The two were the first African-American artists to have solo shows at the Museum of Modern Art, both in 1971.

Made of welded stainless steel, this eye-catching sculpture is nearly 30 feet tall and weighs approximately 8,000 pounds. For comparison’s sake, the Firebird, outside Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, is about 17 feet tall.

It’s too early to know if the new sculpture will become one of the iconic symbols of the city, but on a clear Sunday morning, a number of parents were already setting their kids up in front of it for photo ops, so it’s starting strong.