



PORTRAIT: MARK WOOLCOTT. OPPOSITE: LAWRENCE ARGENT. TOP RIGHT: CHANTAL DE BRUIJNE/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM.

"My work with animals has to do in part with my desire to engage the viewer without intimidation," says artist Lawrence Argent, who sculpts in his Denver studio. *Opposite:* Argent's 40-foot-high bear turns visits to the Colorado Convention Center into a playful experience.

"Give yourself permission to experience the present," says Lawrence Argent, a painter and sculptor known for large-scale public art like his recently installed 50-foot-long, stainless-steel panda scaling a shopping center in Chengdu, China. Born in England and raised in Australia, the Denver-based artist aspires to uncover a sense of familiarity in his work. "So much of what audiences gather as the definition of art, especially contemporary, is a fear of not knowing what it is supposed to be," he says. "My philosophy is to break down those barriers." Perhaps that is why pieces such as the 56-foot-long crimson rabbit leaping through the Sacramento International Airport and the 20-foot-high wall of 26 granite lips soon to be unveiled outside the new wing of Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital in Los Angeles are garnering worldwide attention. Argent's understanding of forms and movement through space can be attributed to growing up with an architect father who passed along the ability to propel ideas into reality. "Once an object is decontextualized," he says, "it has the potential to unnerve the familiar and open a dialogue." [lawrenceargent.com](http://lawrenceargent.com); 303.905.9031

Argent cites travel as important to his creative process and claims trips to places like the Casa Milà, a building designed by Antoni Gaudí in Barcelona, as inspirational.



PUBLIC STATEMENT

# LAWRENCE ARGENT



**I LOVE WHAT I DO BECAUSE...**

I love sharing the journeys through the creative process with my two sons; it's always a magical moment when they see the visions of my dreams.

**WHAT'S INSPIRING YOU NOW?**

Whether it be the remote coastal town of Puri in eastern India, the landscape of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, the fantastical work of Antoni Gaudí in Barcelona, or the magical allure of Jerusalem, places definitely inspire, but it is also the continual interaction with place and people that fuels my work.

**ART ICON:**

Many individuals have crossed thresholds of innovation that I find inspiring, but if I were to pick one that has had an everlasting effect on me, I would have to say Marcel Duchamp.

**A WELL-DESIGNED HOME IS:**

Fluid. Connect the inside and the out via light, vistas and other aspects that enliven the space—one has to move with ease both visually and physically.

**WORDS OF WISDOM:**

There are points of departure and points of arrival; let the current take you, even if you end up some place you didn't anticipate.