



PRESTON UTLEY | putley@vaildaily.com

Scott Rella puts the finishing touches on Triumph Winterfest Verdant Meadows. About 30,000 pounds of ice were used to make the 17 ice sculptures, Rella said, the ice sculptor who worked on the project. Each night the sculptures will light up around nightfall, changing all shades of green courtesy of 25-watt LED lights installed in the base of each.

## Frozen works of art light up Vail

### ICE SCULPTURES

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Everything Rella does is temporary, he said.

"That's the whole zen of it for me, it's always been like that. ... I play music; that goes away. You cook a good meal; it's gone. It's about creating something that's for the moment — I like the movement of it, the whole spirituality of it," he said.

### A manly process

Collaborating with other artists is Rella's new direction as a sculptor, he said. On Jan. 6, he celebrated the 20-year

anniversary of the opening of his first ice-sculpture business.

"If you look at my work over the past 25 years, I've done tons of figures — Roman gladiators, Thor, the god of thunder and lightning — I'm trying to reinvent myself as an artist; this is a new direction for me. The whole thing is about art in its environment."

Rella spent much of the past week with a chain saw in hand, carving the sculptures.

"Very manly," Rella joked about the process. Rella, along with Paul Wertin and Rob Capone, worked to put the sculptures together last week. Capone and Wertin stacked the

300-pound blocks of ice — about 100 of them, Rella said — on top of one another while Rella followed them around with a chain saw, sculpting the ice into organic forms.

### 'Green on green'

Inside the base of each sculpture is an LED light. Beginning with tonight's lighting ceremony, the sculptures will light up around sunset each evening through March or whenever they melt. Ranging from amber green to turquoise and "straight up green, green," colors will flow through the sculptures as if they're in motion, said Michael

Baugh of Pink Monkey Solutions. Baugh, along with his partner Nathan Cox, designed the lighting for the sculptures and were testing the lights Thursday afternoon.

Not only is the project green in color, it's also green from an environmental perspective.

"It's green on green," Baugh said, chuckling.

"Basically, they don't use a lot of energy, and you get great colors," Cox said, referring to the LEDs.

The lights also were recycled — they came from a fountain on Wall Street in Vail.

### Respect the sculptures

Fordham has just one request

for passers-by — be respectful.

In an effort to keep the sculptures standing, heightened security has been arranged as a precaution, Fordham said.

"There's a crowd of people in town who think ice sculptures are meant to be vandalized. We're begging people not to destroy them. Walk amongst the Verdant Meadows. Have your picture taken with them, but please don't destroy them," Fordham said. "They are something Vail can be proud of."

High Life Editor Caramie Schnell can be reached at 748-2984 or cschnell@vaildaily.com.

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