

Sun Pivot

A Solar Sculpture
and Calendar



College of Lake County

19351 West Washington Street

Grayslake, IL 60030-1198

**A gate between the natural
and manmade worlds**



Stand before the monolithic stones, with your back to the campus, and you're gazing into a timeless prairie in the distance. Switch perspectives and stand with your back toward the prairie, and you're looking through a massive stone "door" at a man-made artifact, a brick, steel and glass building.

You are standing at **Sun Pivot**, a massive stone sculpture that serves as a gate between the natural and manmade worlds. Created from rough-hewn limestone, silhouetted against the sky, **Sun Pivot** literally uses the earth, sun and sky—nature itself—as the media for an impressive artistic statement.

Through the placement of the sculpture stones, **Sun Pivot** establishes three spatial alignments or sightlines: one running northeast and southwest, another angled to the rising sun on the summer solstice, and a third angled to the sunrise on the two equinoxes. Together, the alignments suggest the continuous but changing, relationship between the natural and manmade worlds.

ASTRONOMICAL NOTES

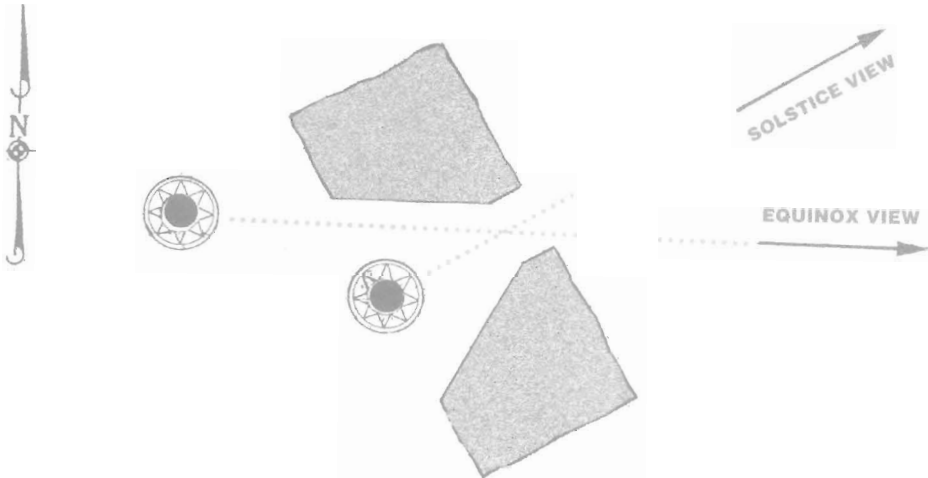
Sun Pivot is aligned to display the sunrise at three times of the year: the summer solstice and the vernal and autumnal equinoxes.

During the year, the sun travels along the horizon to rise in a new position each day. It reaches its northernmost point above the Equator, and travels its widest arc from east to west, on the summer solstice. On this day, the earth's axis is tilted most directly toward the sun, and in the Northern Hemisphere, we experience the longest day of the year. Conversely, during the winter solstice, the earth's axis is tilted furthest away from the sun, and we experience the shortest day.

In the Northern Hemisphere, on the autumnal equinox, the center of the sun crosses the Equator as the sun moves south, and night becomes longer than day. On the vernal equinox, the opposite is true: the center of the sun crosses the Equator as the sun moves north, and day becomes longer than night.

Sun Pivot is aligned to display how the sunrise appears differently on the horizon at the summer solstice and vernal and autumnal equinoxes.

Standing at the solstice marker, the viewer will see the sunrise directly between the two solstice gate stones. Similarly, by shifting the vantage point to the equinox marker, the viewer will see the sunrise over the equinox gate stones.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Stephen Luecking

Stephen Luecking is a Chicago resident and a full professor of art at DePaul University in Chicago.

He holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Quincy College in Quincy, Ill., and a master of fine arts from Miami University.

His work has appeared in both individual and group exhibitions throughout the Midwest and is featured in corporate collections throughout the country.

Mr Luecking has exhibited at the Roy Boyd Gallery, Chicago; the Locus Gallery, St. Louis; and the Somerhill Gallery, Chapel Hill, S.C.

The sculpture **Sun Pivot**, by Stephen Luecking, is located outside the College of Lake County's Performing Arts Building. Reminiscent of Stonehenge, **Sun Pivot** takes advantage of the aesthetic power of rough-hewn oolithic limestone to create a unique work. Like Stonehenge, **Sun Pivot** combines art and science. Through precise placement of the sculpture stones, **Sun Pivot** acts as a seasonal indicator, marking both the summer solstice and the autumnal and vernal equinoxes.



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1/2% for Art program.

For additional information
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