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“ S P L I T S P I R A L ”

A Description of Artwork by Ray King Installed at
U S T A R -- Utah State University Innovation Campus, North Logan, Utah

SplitSpiral is an exterior wall-mounted sculpture that consists of a metal armature of curved stainless steel pipes arranged in criss-crossing spiral pattern that wraps the South East corner of the façade of the USTAR. Attached to the metal are glass discs laminated with a metallic holographic film that that reflects brilliant color when struck by light and exhibits a shimmering iridescence, similar to luminous fish scales, at other times. As an icon of nature and technology, the artwork references the natural phenomenon of the diffraction of light and geometric patterns found in nature and botany.

The ½” thick laminated glass discs are graduated in size from 4’ to 16” diameter and aligned to the curved pipes. The refractive nature of this glass responds to sunlight, capturing and dynamically refracting light and chromatics, depending on the angle of light and the orientation of the viewer. The colors change as the viewer moves in space. The colors and materials will be exceptionally complementary to the zinc screen façade.

The glass elements face both east and south to form a phyllotaxis/Fibonacci pattern found in many plants native to Utah; they capture and reflect sunlight throughout the day. The visual transformation of light into color represents a dialogue or communication between the artwork and the power of the sun and conveys a conversation of sunlight and materials, creating rainbow-like emanations that shift and change as the viewer moves or as the light source changes.