



Conner Mullen
The Afterglow

Conner Mullen (USA)

Conner Mullen, a student at Southern Regional Technical College, Tifton, Georgia, started making welded sculptures during his senior year of High School for the SkillsUSA Georgia Welding Sculpture Competition. His sculpture “Terrors Below” was a scene of a giant octopus tearing down the Golden Gate Bridge. This sculpture won the State finals and gained him entry to the National finals for the very first time. Last year, he submitted his sculpture “Afterglow”. The inspiration for this was in memory of his two friends, Austin Douglas and Travis Hughes. This sculpture was a kinetic ocean scene featuring a swimming manta ray and a moving giant clam and placed second in the SkillsUSA National Welding Sculpture Competition.

Although his SkillsUSA sculpture career is now complete, he enthusiastically makes commissions for people all over the USA and hopefully this will become all over the world someday.

Link to “AfterGlow”: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQkdyoci5Dg

Link to “Blackfish”: www.youtube.com/shorts/PoxAXbVNPu4

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Exhibit “Afterglow”

A definition of Afterglow is “A light or radiance remaining in the sky after the sun has set”.

His sculpture, titled “Afterglow”, was created to symbolize the good triumphing over the bad.

His sculpture is rich in symbolism. The shipwreck symbolizes loss or troubled times. Even though the ship is small it holds a big role in his sculpture. It is meant to be recognized and remembered for it is hard times that help us grow. As seen in the sculpture, the ship is being engulfed by the beautiful reef, using it to grow.

Both he and his friend Austin played soccer together, and Austin’s soccer number was four. In his sculpture, Conner made four different types of animals (manta ray, octopus, clam, and coral) and used four different types of materials, carbon steel, stainless steel, silicon bronze, and copper. As far as the welding techniques to make this sculpture, he used GMAW, SMAW, GTAW, FCAW, and Brazing.

His sculpture’s relationship to biodiversity is through all of the different organisms thriving on the coral reef. His sculpture displays a whole ecosystem from the coral using the ship as its base, to the manta ray swimming around looking for food. His sculpture is unique and is aesthetically pleasing because of the beauty of biodiversity.

Dimensions of Exhibit

23 cm high x 45 cm long x 29 cm wide

