

# The Sphelix

## Johnny Hawkes

Exhibition at The Worx 13 -14<sup>th</sup> September 2008

### The shape of things to come

Deceptively simple in form and endlessly metamorphic, The Sphelix is distinctively elegant whether experienced in two, three, or four dimensions. Like the sublime forms found in nature, The Sphelix is the outcome of a successful mutational accident.

Over thirty years in the making the inspiration for this new shape was found in a small helical crack which developed in the cast of a resin ball. From this chance occurrence, the concept evolved into a two-part form that seamlessly entwines and locks to create a perfect sphere. Having conceived The Sphelix, it was then realised in concrete form. An Archimedes screw was originally used as a guide to the complex internal geometry, but over the years the vision of the perfect form has become a reality. The result is an entity that combines internal and metamorphic elegance with organic structural unity: a concrete representation of harmony and integrity in four dimensions.

For designers, engineers, architects, physicists indeed, and for anyone who works with forms in space, The Sphelix adds a new element to the ancient trinity of circle, triangle and rectangle. A form that has the golden ratio hardwired into its internal structure. A shape for the future.

**The Sphelix represents British innovation at its best.**

Invented and developed since 1979 by 2 londoners, johnny hawkes and dave constable, the work involved securing a government grant and collaborating with Deltacam Systems ltd, a top CAD engineering firm to develop the tooling strategies using DUCT software

created at Cambridge University. Using wire spark erosion as a cutting method the first aluminium sphelix was produced in 1984. As an example of the best cutting edge engineering a sphelix was presented to The Duke of Kent at the opening of Aston Science Park in Birmingham. The latest form, the centrepiece of the exhibition is a £35k bronze sphelix sculpture cast by Pangolin Editions the number 1 British foundry.

To view The Sphelix visit the Space in Time exhibition at The Worx Studios, Fulham London from the 13-14<sup>th</sup> September. Opening times Saturday 10am-6pm & Sunday 10am-4pm.

Relevant websites                      [www.sphelix.com](http://www.sphelix.com)                      [www.pwlimited.co.uk](http://www.pwlimited.co.uk)

### About Johnny Hawkes

Johnny Hawkes (52) is a self-taught artist who has worked predominantly throughout his life with wood. A renowned modern furniture designer and maker he is chosen to exhibit globally from New York to Sydney. His career as both an artist and craftsman spans over thirty years, during which he has created commissions from mellow to razor sharp for both private and corporate clients. Most notable was Lord Bath's millennium bed and a writing desk for Monte Carlo's governor general.

**His design style breaks** down into two forms **organic and sharp**. The feminine side (organic) always uses solid wood and involves sensual flowing lines and carving or shaping deep into the wood either with pairing chisels to create a quilting effect or band saw relief. Water, women and nature are the prime inspiration for the organic style. The masculine side (sharp) is visually much tougher, created with intersecting planes & geometric forms that derive their inspiration from architecture and man made objects.

### Collaboration with Dave

I was lucky to meet Dave in the mid 70's and spent many hours in his workshop in Olympia under his guidance learning about mould making and casting. It was during this time that we developed the sphelix and we worked on and off with it together until 1985 when Dave moved to Wales to set up a crafts centre. Since then I have majoratively

worked on it on my own. Dave (68) is the countries number 1 wax expert & still the only man entrusted with making the Royalties death masks. A true artisan he now splits his time between Wales and his company in Olympia.

**The Exhibition:**

Name	Space in Time
Location	The Worx 10 Heathmans Road, Parsons Green London SW6 4TJ
Open	Saturday 13 Sept. 10am - 6pm Sunday 14 Sept. 10am - 4pm attended by the artist.
New sculpture	Bronze entwined sphelix 4ft.x3ft.x3ft. 2x 90cm diameter single sphelix's Bronze 25cms diameter single sphelix
New furniture	CD08 a walnut and ebony writing desk. The Kiss. Lightcones and Lightfalls. The Recession, a quivering hall table about the anghst of the recession during Thatcherism in 1989.

**Purpose // Why**

After a long stint showing at 100% Design and various group shows "show fatigue" set in and the desire for a solo exhibition pushed to the front. Besides showing some new furniture and a few selected old favourites the main reason is to launch Sphelix.

**The Shape of the Future**