

ACO Partners with Černý to Create New Dimension

Press release

The successful installation aboard Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines' Harmony of the Seas has resulted in an expression of interest for a further order on the fourth Oasis-class vessel, due for delivery in 2018.

Only it's not for a state-of the art wastewater management solution for which the company is typically known: it is state-of-the-art on a much grander scale – another jaw-dropping, thought-provoking installation designed by controversial sculptor David Černý.

It was ten years ago that the awarding-winning artist first approached his friend – an employee at ACO Marine's Prague facility – enquiring if the company could help engineer and build 'Metamorphosis', the mirrored sculpture that now takes pride of place in the Whitehall Technology Park in Charlotte, North Carolina, U.S. It was a success and ACO Art was born.

"We've completed about seven installations together, including 'Metamorphosis', 'K' and 'Head' for RCCL," said Černý, who recently won the prestigious NordArt 2016 prize for 'K' a 10m, 45t kinetic metallic bust of Franz Kafka that dominates the area across from Prague City Hall, next to the building in which the novelist worked as an insurance clerk. "We've also just completed the commissioning of the Trifot sculpture in Prague."

However, such has been the reception to the five-ton, three-dimensional stainless-steel 'Head' that greets passengers as they meander around the Harmony of the Seas' Royal Promenade, RCCL approached the artist to design another showstopper. ACO Marine will once again manufacture and install the as-yet-to-be-revealed design.

"We received a lot of thanks from RCCL, who almost immediately commissioned another design. I have some ideas based on the Kafka head but can't say anything more at this stage," Černý says.

Mark Beavis, Managing Director, ACO Marine revealed that the German-headquartered ACO Group has a long history supporting contemporary art and artists.

"When the Carlshütte foundry closed down in 1997, Hans-Julius Ahlmann, ACO Group's Managing Partner, developed the grounds and the historic buildings to create a very special venue for concerts and art exhibitions, including the annual NordArt, which has grown into the largest exhibition of contemporary art in northern Europe."

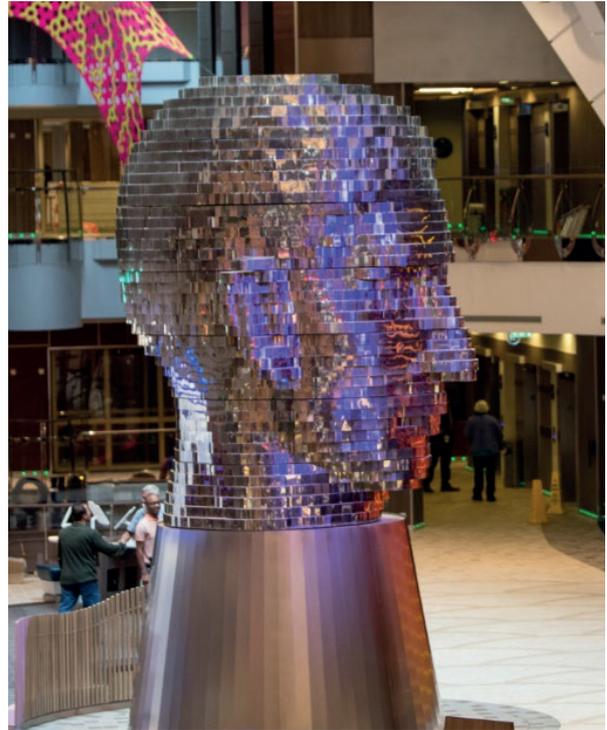
"We are delighted that David won this year's award and look forward to working with him on the Harmony of the Seas' sister ship and other art installations. David sends us his 3D computer designs and then we set about turning his vision into tangible form. We specialise in manufacturing high-quality stainless steel products so using that experience and technology to manufacture and install his artworks is a real privilege. His artwork is groundbreaking and truly thought-provoking."

While the exact nature of the RCCL commission remains a closely guarded secret, Černý's maritime installations are likely to be far less provocative than the work for which the award-winning artist is renowned, some of which can viewed on the artist's website: <http://www.davidcerny.cz>.

Picture Caption:



Head, by David Černý, greets passengers aboard Harmony of the Seas



David Černý and ACO Marine have completed the commissioning of Trifot in Prague

About ACO Marine:

Established fifteen years ago, ACO Marine is a member of the international German headquartered ACO Group and a leading supplier of advanced wastewater treatment systems to the global commercial, naval, offshore and leisure marine sectors with a sales and service network world-wide. Its unique environmental solutions are used primarily in wastewater technology, wastewater management and drainage systems.

The wide range of products includes advanced membrane bioreactor systems, conventional extended aeration with 'bio-sword' filtration sewage treatment plants, push-fit pipe systems in both stainless and galvanised steel and fully automated high capacity grease separators. ACO Marine develops in-house solutions from its ISO 9001 accredited production facilities, all of which are located entirely within the EU.

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