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A Closer Look: Arturo Herrera's 'Walk'



Arturo Herrera is this week's artist featured in A Closer Look.

By Colin Dabkowski (http://buffalo.com/author/Colin_Dabkowski/) | *News Arts Critic* |
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Artist: Arturo Herrera // Title: "Walk" // Exhibition: "Arturo Herrera: Little Bits of Modernism," through March 5 in the [Albright-Knox Art Gallery](http://albrightknox.org/)
[\(http://albrightknox.org/\)](http://albrightknox.org/)

Is it possible for a piece of art to be both spontaneous and meticulously planned?

Arturo Herrera provides an elegant answer to that question with "Walk," a 2009 series of 14 seemingly random doodles rendered in cold, black steel.

The piece, on view in the skinny Albright-Knox corridor known as The Link, was inspired by artist Paul Klee's famous description of drawing as a casual act of "taking the line for a walk."



One in a series of steel pieces in Arturo Herrera's 2009 piece "Walk."

In this piece, which followed a series of digital drawings based on Herrera's sketchbook that were on view behind the admission desk of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, Herrera has transformed his drawings from tossed-off doodles into permanent hunks of metal.

The resulting piece is both elegant and imposing, and, like some of local artist [Kyle Butler's recent work](#),

prompts the viewer to think about the inescapable tension between freedom and structure, order and chaos.

"By executing his designs in steel and mounting on a wall," reads a bit of wall text accompanying the piece, "Herrera creates a more formal presentation of his idea, but one that still maintains a sense of whimsy and immediacy through its fragmented, gestural imagery."

[Check out a gallery of each of the pieces in the series here.](http://galleries.buffalonews.com/default.aspx?id=3571#/1)
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