

Barcelona artist to create sculpture as part of Olympic 'cultural legacy'

Park site proposed: The abstract work suggests athletes in motion.

By Catherine Fox
VISUAL ARTS CRITIC

The Cultural Olympiad announced Friday the commission of "Androgyne Planet," a 26-foot-tall sculpture by Barcelona artist Enric Pladevall — and it's hoping to get permission to install the work at Centennial Olympic Park by spring 1996.

One of 10 Barcelona artists who have marketed their work as a group called "A Cultural Legacy: Barcelona to Atlanta '96," Pladevall, 43, will use stainless steel, teak wood and bronze in creating the abstract sculpture, which leans slightly forward in a suggestion of incipient movement.

"I admire its elegance and strongly evocative abstract forms, which seem to call to mind a wide variety of images and associations," says Annette Carozzi, who, as the Olympiad's visual arts producer, chose the piece. "That's a very attractive quality in a public artwork."

She also praised its whimsical nature, the sensuality of the materials, the refinement of Pladevall's craftsmanship and the dynamism of the form.

Pladevall doesn't believe in explaining works of art, but he said the piece was created with Olympic athletes in mind. "I hope it suggests a human presence," he said Friday during a brief visit to Atlanta. It also suggests Brancusi's abstracted birds and the famous Greek "Winged Victory" in the Louvre. The top portion, which is sliced off, looks like a cat's face.

Carozzi would like to place "Androgyne Planet" in Centennial Olympic Park. Her proposal will be considered by the park's public art committee, and she hopes to finalize a site in the next month. Pladevall has already begun fabricating the piece, his



MARILYN SURIANI / Special

Barcelona artist Enric Pladevall displays his model for the 26-foot-tall "Androgyne Planet" he has been commissioned to sculpt by Atlanta's Cultural Olympiad.

10th major public sculpture, in his studio in Vic, a city outside the Catalan capital.

Pladevall has exhibited around the world, but this will be his first major piece in the United States. Excited about what this might mean for his career,

he also said he hopes the Barcelona-to-Atlanta action will start a tradition.

"Artists should go from city to city, like the carrying of the Olympic torch," he says. "We come to Atlanta. Atlanta artists should go to Sydney."

Art from Barcelona

A 26-foot-tall sculpture by Barcelona artist Enric Pladevall has been commissioned by the Cultural Olympiad,

which hopes to place it in Centennial Park by the spring of 1996.



LOCAL NEWS, B3