

Public Art, John P. Downs Company

Case Study: The Central Broward Regional Park
Broward County, FL

DuPont™ Corlar® and Imron® – The Art of Protective Coatings



DuPont Industrial Coatings (DIC) is a recognized leader in durable primers, direct-to-metal coatings, topcoats and clearcoats. For over eight decades, DIC has provided *Coating Solutions That Work* for a wide range of industries including construction, rail and farming. More recently, however, DIC has garnered critical acclaim for its application in the world of public art. Case in point: “Whirls and Swirls and a Vortex on Water”—a stunningly beautiful steel and aluminum sculpture by world-renowned artist, Alice Aycock.



Measuring 18 feet upward, the sculpture adorns the entrance of the newly completed, 5,000-seat Cricket Stadium at The Central Broward Regional Park in Broward County, Florida. The muscle behind this work of art was Jack Downs, owner of the John P. Downs Company, Inc.

With 32 years in the business, Downs knew what it would take to first build the spiraling metal structure, and then coat it with products that not only represent the artist’s vision, but provide long-term protection from the harsh Florida sun and salty air. For these reasons, Downs looked to DIC. “I’ve worked with DuPont products for years and the durability and ‘sprayability’ is second to none,” said Downs. “The real challenge from a coating perspective dealt with aesthetics and the fact that three feet of the structure is under water.”

Aycock wanted a silver/aluminum look, but with a flat finish. Additionally, the portion of the sculpture under water required an immersion coating. For Downs, the solution was simple—he called FinishMaster, a DuPont jobber in Dania, Florida. Raymond Vickers, FinishMaster Industrial Account Manager, explained, “I formulated a few samples based on Jack’s color specs and sent them to Alice Aycock. Although the silver topcoat was initially a bit too glossy for her taste, the clear was available in a flat—so it worked out perfectly.”



To coat the submerged section of the sculpture, Corlar® 2.1 ST was chosen for both primer and topcoat. For everything above water, Imron® 3.5 HG in Aluminum Metallic was selected for the topcoat, followed by Imron® 2.8 Flat Clear.

While these products help give the sculpture a cool, calming beauty, they also provide an armor-like coat. Chip Brackett, DuPont Senior Account Manager, described this protection. “The South Florida sun and salty, humid air can be brutal. Fortunately, they’re no match for these products. They really stand alone in regard to durability, color retention, and appearance.”

Alice Aycock would be the first to agree with Brackett’s viewpoint, “I’m very happy with how it turned out. I have pieces all over the world and I’ve used other products that didn’t perform very well compared to that of DuPont. The sculpture really soaked it up—it’s the best coating I’ve encountered thus far.

When asked if they would continue to work with DuPont products, both Jack Downs and Alice Aycock replied with a firm “absolutely.” Explained Downs, “Raymond Vickers and Chip Brackett are the two reasons I will always use DuPont. Of course, the products themselves are great, but it’s the customer support—the knowledge and the expertise—that really makes a difference.



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