BEAUTIFUL LEGO® 2 DARK MIKE DOYLE



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MIKE DOYLE





FEATURED ON THE COVER

FRONT

Sickening Sweet, Mike Doyle

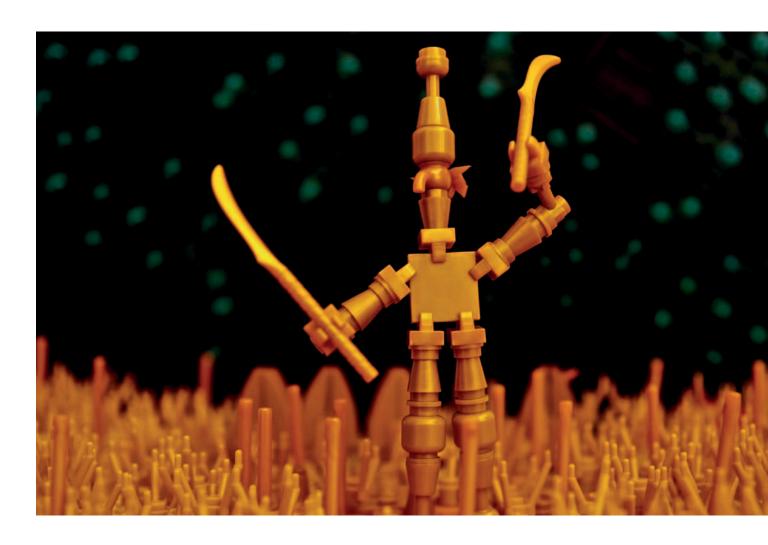
FLAPS AND BACK

And the Band Played On..., Barney Main; Marine Organisms, Bidea; Juvenile Draconis Diablos, Nathan DeCastro; Abandoned Sea City, Jason Allemann; King Kong, Ken Ito; Fiend's Eye, Justin Vaughn; Anubis and Ra, David Alexander Smith

Limited edition fine art prints available for cover image (full image on pages 170–171), and other works by Mike Doyle at http://bumbleandbramble.blogspot.com.



To Mina and Mike Doyle, my beautiful wife Stephanie, and our two boys, Caeden and Ian. You are all an inspiration to me—each in your own wonderful way!



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is possible only through the amazing work created by the LEGO building community. Their work—shared online and at events—brings endless inspiration. Quite a few designers took extra effort to rephotograph and even rebuild their pieces for this book. I can't thank you enough—the work looks great!





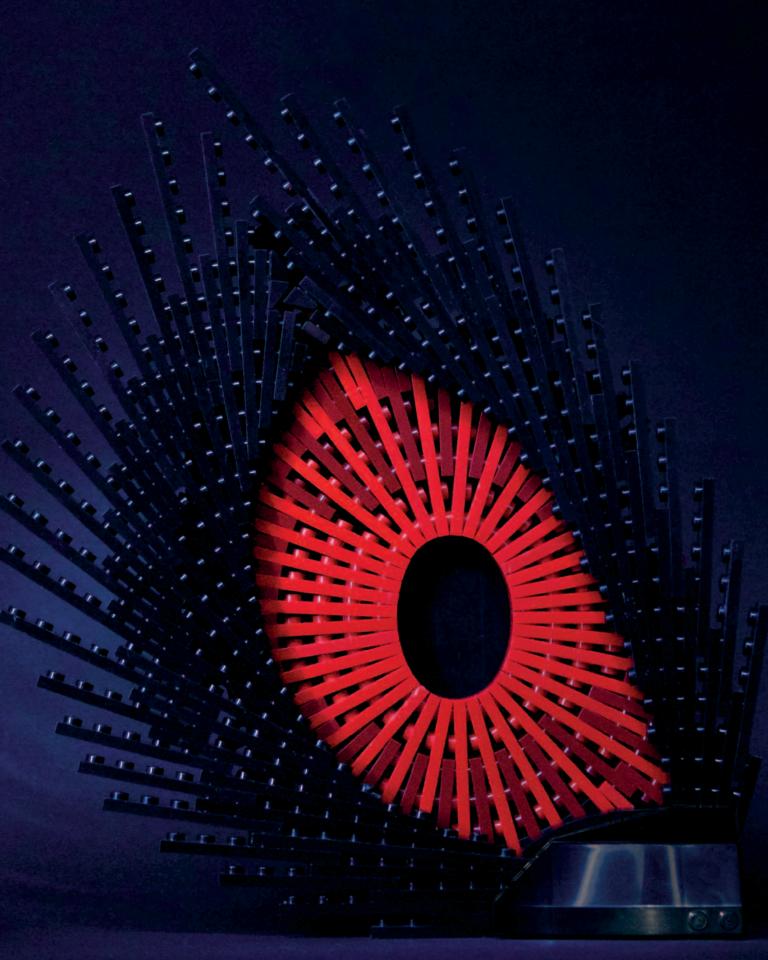
SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to those who participated in the online call-to-entry contest. This book grew that much more robust as a result of your creativity.

Winning participants are as follows:

Markus Aspacher, Eric Beitle, Tobias Buckdahn, Elliott Feldman, Tyler Halliwell, David Hensel, Maciej Kocot, Alexander Megerle, Mihai Marius Mihu, Günther Möbius, Matthew Oh, Dennis Qiu, Tom Remy, Brian Rinker, Kosmas Santosa, Timothy Schwalfenberg, David Alexander Smith, Ian Spacek, Michael Steindl, Lauchlan Toal, Aaron Van Cleave, and Lukasz Wiktorowicz



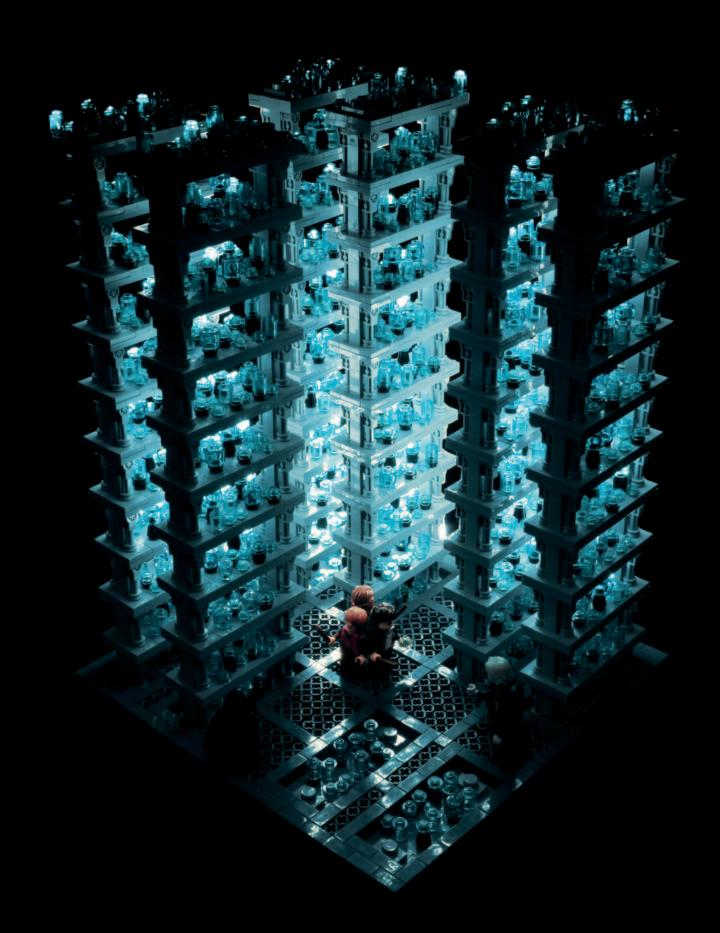


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Preface

The second volume of *Beautiful LEGO* introduces a thematic filter to the curating process: Dark. I chose this theme because it seemed to represent a great number of works already coming out of the LEGO community. You'll see destructive objects, like warships and mecha, and dangerous and creepy animals; there is no shortage of material. The dark fantasies of dragons, zombies, and spooks have real-world counterparts: the unrestrained greed of bankers and financiers, the blind pollution of corporate zombies, and the fear and destruction spread by military spooks.

Dark has its light side, though. In the richness of chocolate and the thrill of the unknown, darkness can delight. And the interplay between darkness and light can have a powerful effect, as seen in David Alexander Smith's brightly backlit silhouettes.

I am pleased to show you even more models—from a larger and more diverse group of individuals—in this volume. With builders from the US, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Eastern Europe, China, Japan, Korea, Russia and more, we see just how global the LEGO community is.

In *Dark*, we also have a few representations of digitally rendered models. I have no doubt that this will be a controversial decision, but some of these works were simply too compelling not to include. Building digitally broadens the playing field of creativity, letting those without access to expensive LEGO pieces build impressive works. On the other hand, digital models do not have to contend with gravity, which is a serious consideration when building with real bricks. Ultimately, I found these digital pieces compelling enough to share with you.

The process of selection is a very subjective one. Clever parts usage, overall beauty, thematic appropriateness, and interesting color combinations are some of the things I look for. Unfortunately, many excellent works did not make it into this book, most often because of an inability to contact the builder.

I hope that this volume continues to inspire and delight you!



Bart De Dobbelaer

LEGO has been in my life since my early years. I was five when I got my first set (Space Digger #6822) and ever since, I've been hooked. As a young man, I gathered almost every Classic Space set, I dabbled a little in the Castle theme and ended with Technic. When the first computer hit our home, the LEGO got shelved in the attic. And so my Dark Ages began. Cue college, university, studying, meeting my wife, having kids, and even buying some LEGO for the little ones. Suddenly it's 2010 and the first Atlantis sets hit the shelves. I see the Gateway of the Squid set, and I find myself hooked again. Majorly hooked.

Why LEGO? Simple: it opens up a world of possibilities, with the only limitation being your own imagination. I often think I can never have enough bricks, but luckily I don't lack imagination or inspiration. I prefer to work directly from my mind and give my ideas free reign. I start with a broad idea of something I want to build and some colors to use, and the rest follows—not a stream of consciousness but a stream of building. More often than not, the original idea gets warped or even abandoned halfway through the construction process. I allow both the story and

structure of each piece to unfold, change, jump, and surprise me—not because I planned every step, but because that's where where I allow it to take me.

Why LEGO? Bricks connect but people too. When I got out of my Dark Ages, I was simply amazed by the existing community. During my younger years, LEGO was a plaything, something to do on a rainy day. Occasionally I created something cool, and Mom would take a picture. Friends would come over to play and build, but that was all. Now, with a single click, thousands of people can see your creation and comment on it. There are forums to discuss techniques, groups to share themed creations, challenges and competitions, and even online shops with a never-ending supply of parts. There are so many ways to connect with fellow builders and make new friends.

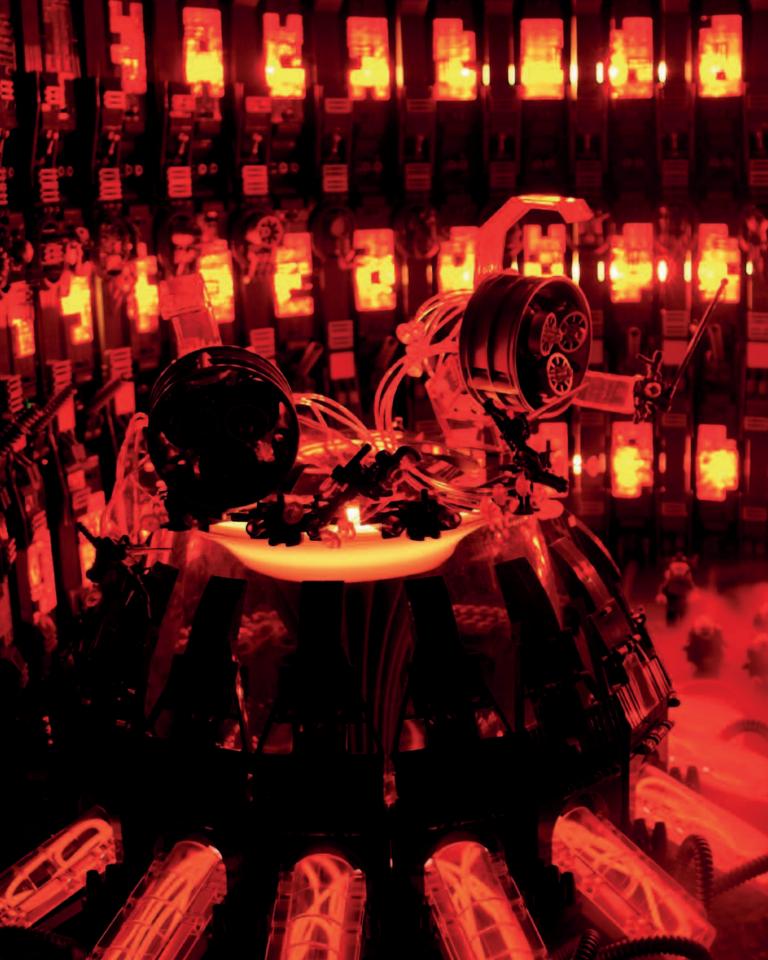
For me, this is really a game changer: The creations I imagine can be shared all over the world, for everyone to see and to enjoy.

Why LEGO? Why not!









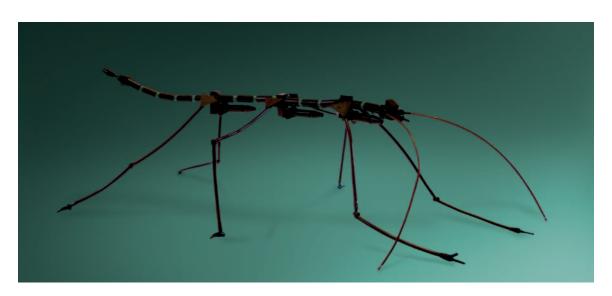


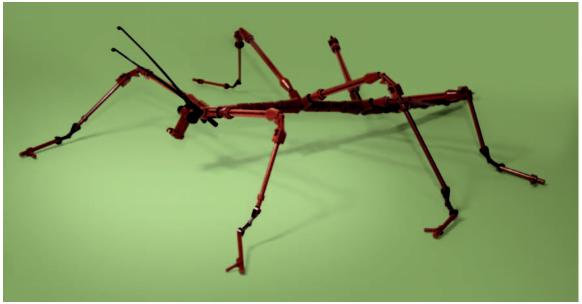




Creepy Crawlers







(top) Jordan Robert Schwartz Phasmatodea 2009 (150+ pieces)

(bottom) Sean and Steph Mayo Walking Stick 2013







(above) Jason Ruff Gerridae – Water Strider 2010 (170 pieces)

(opposite top)
Bartosz Kacprzyk
House Fly - Musca Domestica 2012 (-50 pieces)

(opposite bottom) Matthew Martin Scum Sucker 2013 (74 pieces)









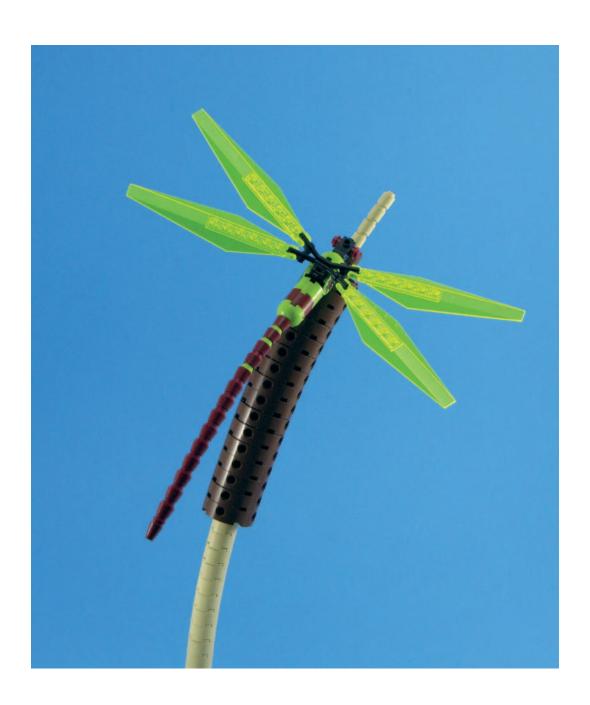


(opposite top) Cole Blaq Blaq Widow 2009

(opposite bottom)
Bartosz Kacprzyk
Ant 2009 (24 pieces)

(above) Bidea Cerambycidae 2012 (~160 pieces)







(above) Tyler Clites Stag Beetle – Albrecht Dürer 2011

> (opposite top) Paul Trach Shelob 2013 (~300 pieces)

(opposite bottom) Lino Martins Dung Beetles 2009 (-600 pieces)







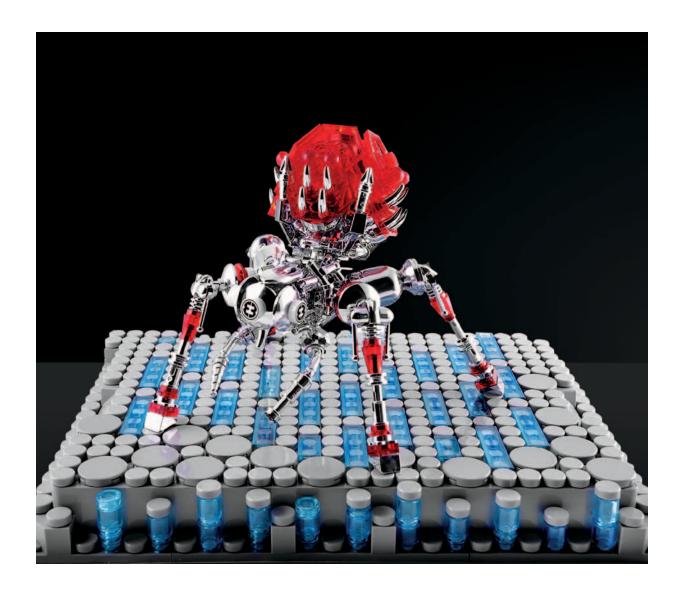




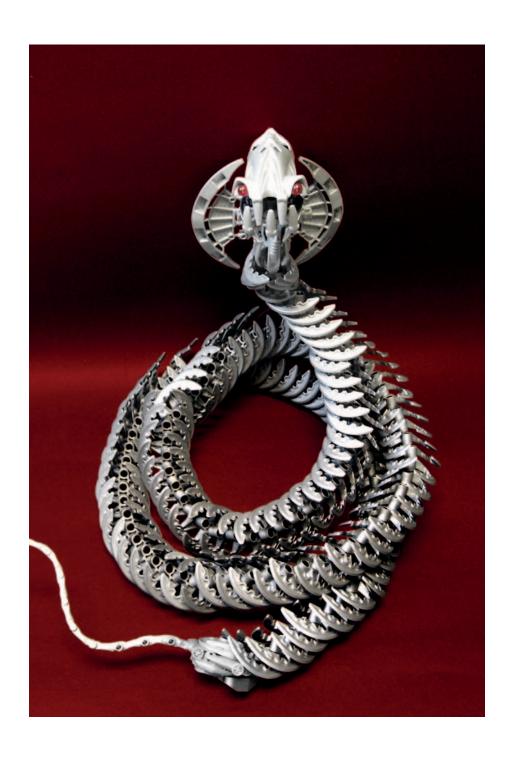


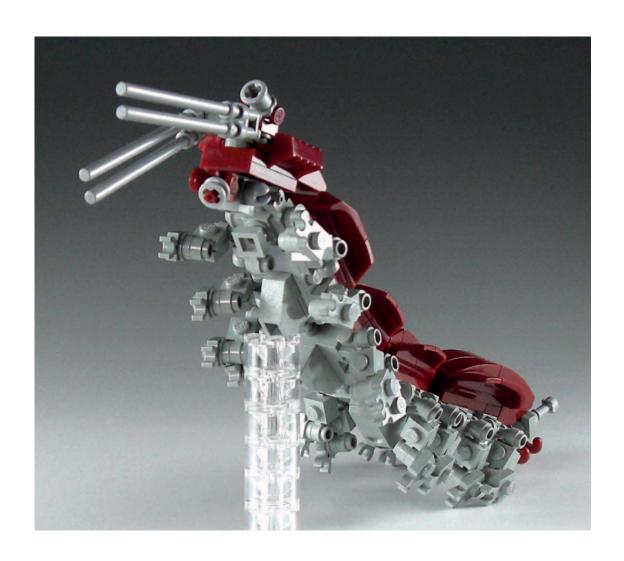


Biomimicry





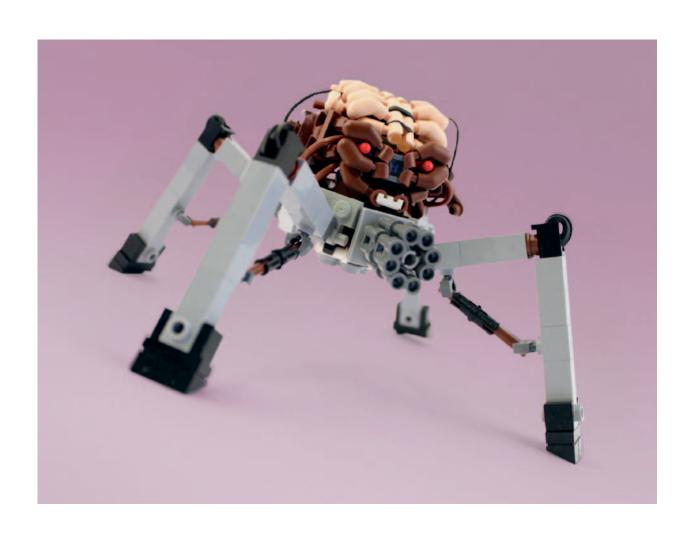




















(opposite top)
Tim Goddard
Bug Warriors 2013

(opposite left)
Mike Nieves
ha-DES 2011 (12 pieces)

(opposite right)
Matthew Martin
Mechluse 2013 (~40 pieces)

(above) Djordje Dobrosavljevic Scuttle 2014 (~250 pieces)







(opposite top) Lino Martins Juggernaut 2009 (~2200 pieces)

(opposite bottom) Mike Nieves Ravage 2011 (~200 pieces)

(above) Matthew Martin Mantis Mech 2013 (-1120 pieces)





(opposite) Ryuhei Kawai LTW-006 GOTHICA 2009 (~1000 pieces)

(above) Borisov Igor Arachnicoma [digital render] 2013 (279 pieces)









(opposite) Tim Goddard The Creature 2014

(above) Borisov Igor Crusader Carver [digital render] 2013 (458 pieces)

Warships





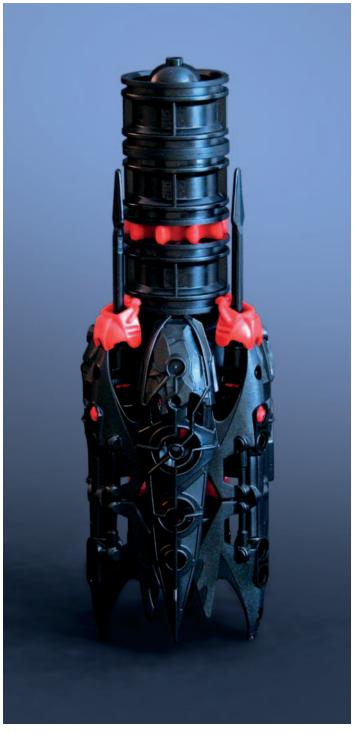








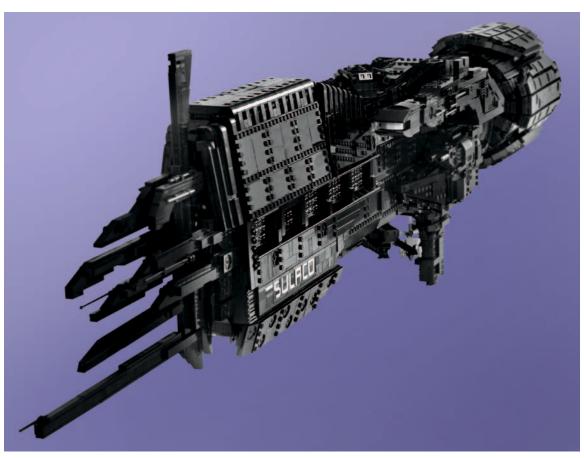




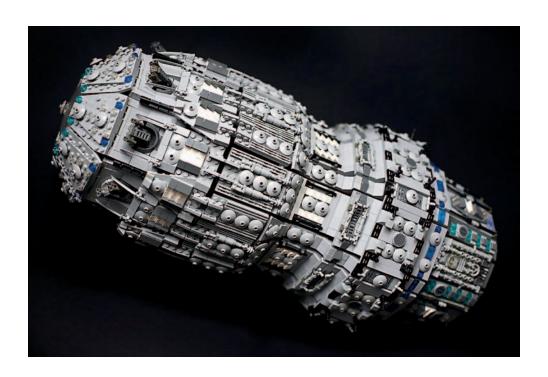
Justin Vaughn











(opposite top) Michael Steindl USS Sulaco 2014 (9640 pieces)

(opposite bottom) Sven Junga Hyperion 2012 (~15,000 pieces)

(above) Anton Fedin Prometheus 2012 (~3000 pieces)



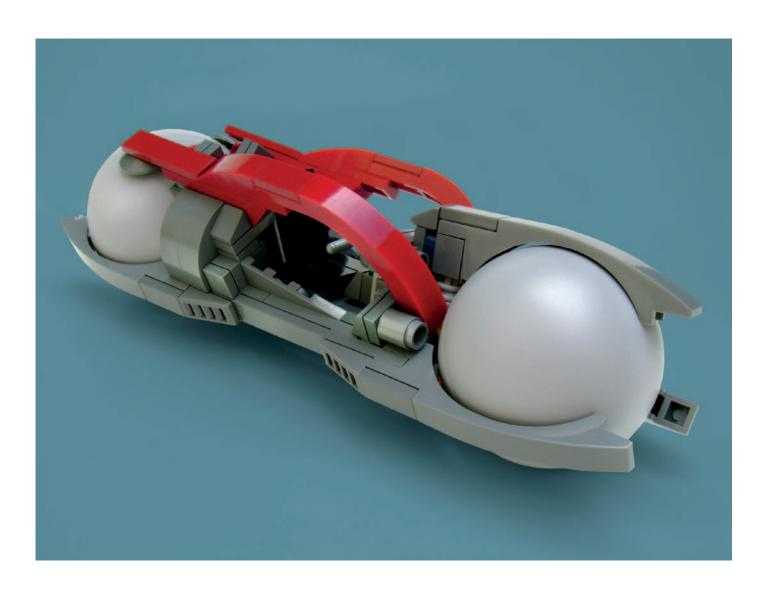








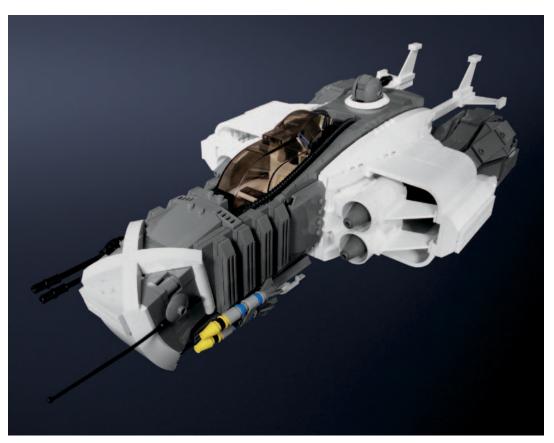
Transporterria



(above) Vincent Gachod SW-Bike 2011

(opposite top) Sven Junga R14 Bulldog 2009 (~500 pieces)

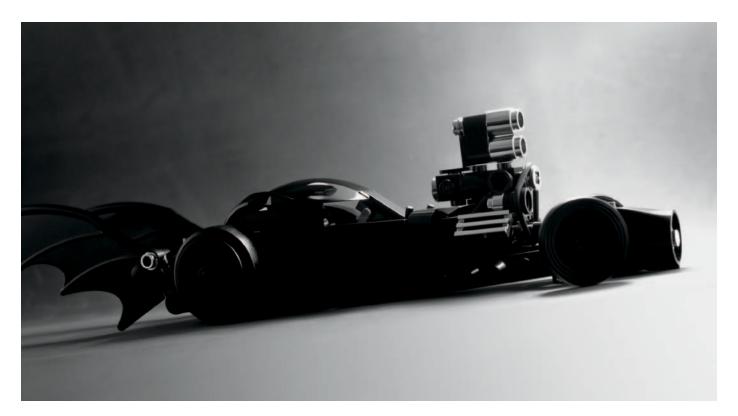
> (opposite bottom) Cole Blaq Light Car 2012













C lin Bor

















C lin Bor

(opposite top) The Punisher 2012 (opposite middle) Silver Fury 2012 (opposite bottom) Batmobile - Mini Batpod 2012

Future Shock



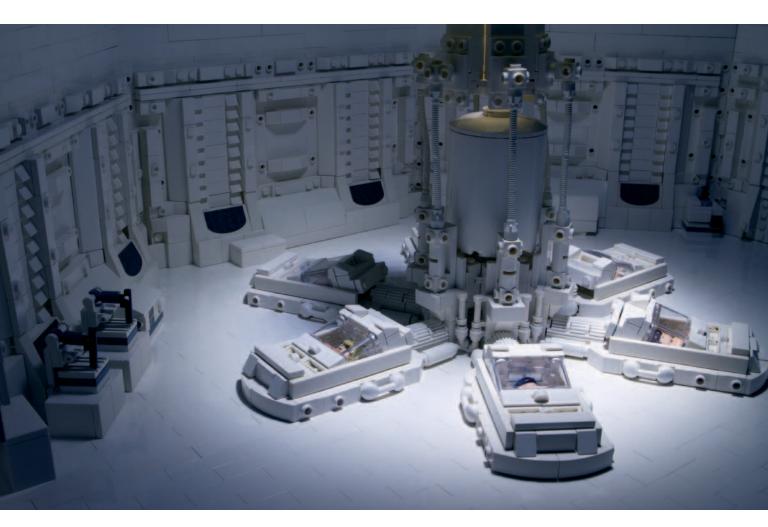


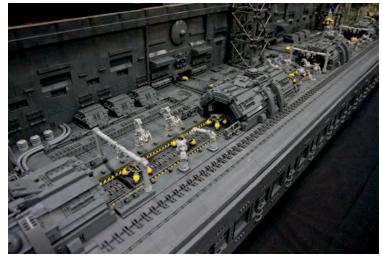






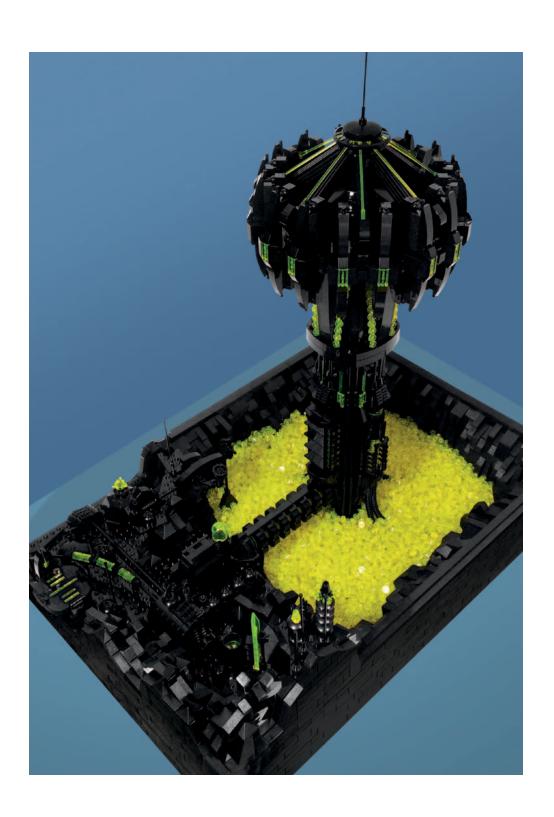






Peter Reid











Rod Gillies

(opposite top) Hold the Line at Bleaker Street 2011 (~150 pieces) (above) Focke-Wulfe "Meteor" 2011 (~1000 pieces)







Tim Goddard

I feel like there is some kind of artist in me. But despite my best efforts, my drawing skills refuse to improve. LEGO is definitely my artistic outlet.

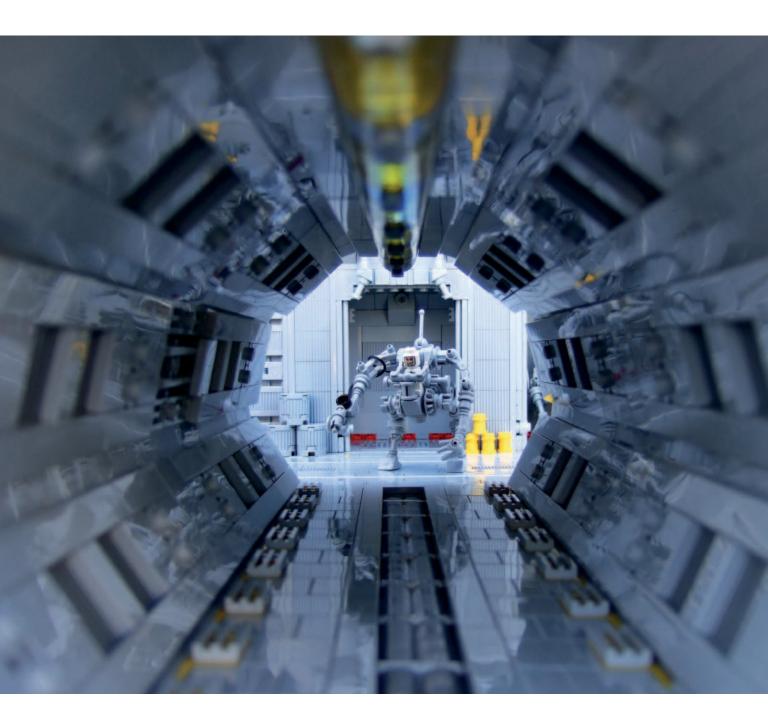
I started creating MOCs with Star Wars microscale models of my own design. As a child, I had created my own models—furniture-spanning bases linked by monorail—but I approached my first models as an adult like three-dimensional collages, trying different pieces together to create a line or shape and eventually a whole. My goal is to make something greater than the sum of its parts—something that looks real (whether truly real or imagined), not like a LEGO model. Building small, microscale models means every piece has to count and look right.

I now build in various space themes, as well as a fair few animals. I also dabble in other subjects, but whatever it is, I try to approach each one like a sculpture. The wonder of LEGO means I can sculpt in plastic easily and fairly quickly.

As I build, I am constantly replacing one part with another until I am happy with the appearance; I don't normally have much more than a rough idea of what I want the finished work to look like, but I know when I am happy.

I'm happiest building my own worlds. It's a kind of escapism from the stress of working life. You can have great schemes in your head—whole worlds where the model you're building is but a small part. These schemes may never be fully realized,







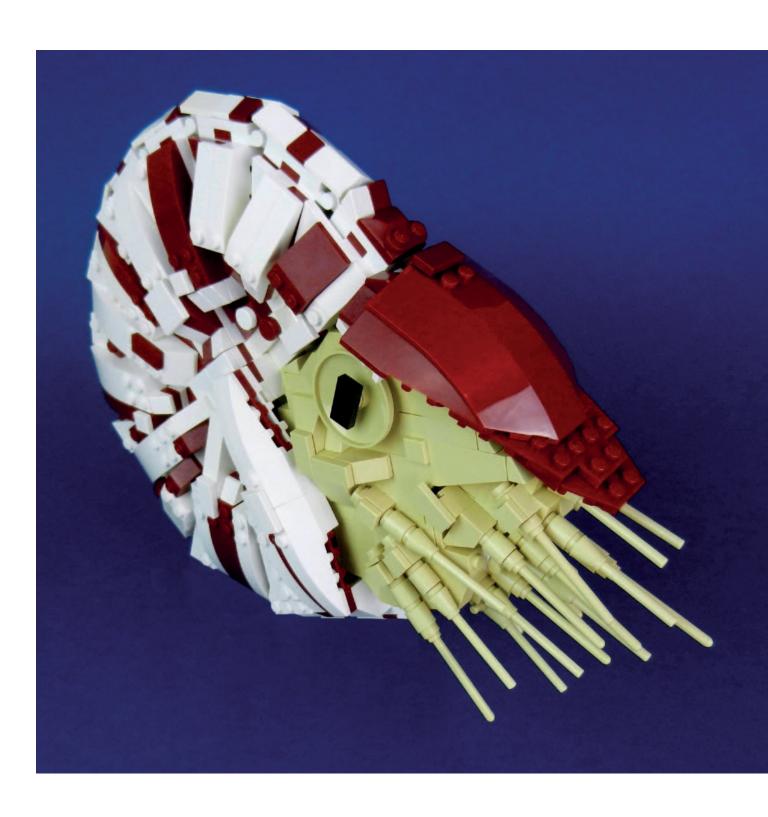


but that's part of the journey. The trick is to be satisfied with what you produce, not an easy feat. I'm probably my harshest critic.

The community of LEGO builders are at the core of what LEGO is about, and a constant source of inspiration.

I must admit to feeling a sense of competition. When I see an amazing model online, it pushes me to improve my game. There will always be someone better than you, with a bigger collection or more talent. You don't have to beat them, only draw inspiration. A tiny bit of jealousy can be constructive!

The community creates an interesting duality. I mainly view building as a solitary pursuit, and that's part of the reason I enjoy it. I am the shy and retiring type; building with LEGO is something I'm completely in control of. But building as part of a collaboration—for an online competition or a more direct project like a display for a public show—is one of the most rewarding parts of the hobby. It's a unique challenge, working together creatively to build something, and it means change and flexibility (which I'm not always great with), but it's always worth it in the end.





One of my biggest collaborations was on a book with my friend Pete. Our book, *LEGO Space:* Building the Future, pushed me to build more, faster, and to a higher standard than ever before. It wasn't just a building collaboration, either. Photography, writing, IT, driving, support from family (thanks, Sharon) and lots of tea were involved. The finished product is something I'll be proud of forever. Going through two years of torture to produce it has made me a better builder.

There is a nice little community of spacers growing in the UK right now who are great to work with. This gives me a good reason to keep building and pushing myself.

Ocean Depths







(top) Andrew Lee Sealab 7 2009







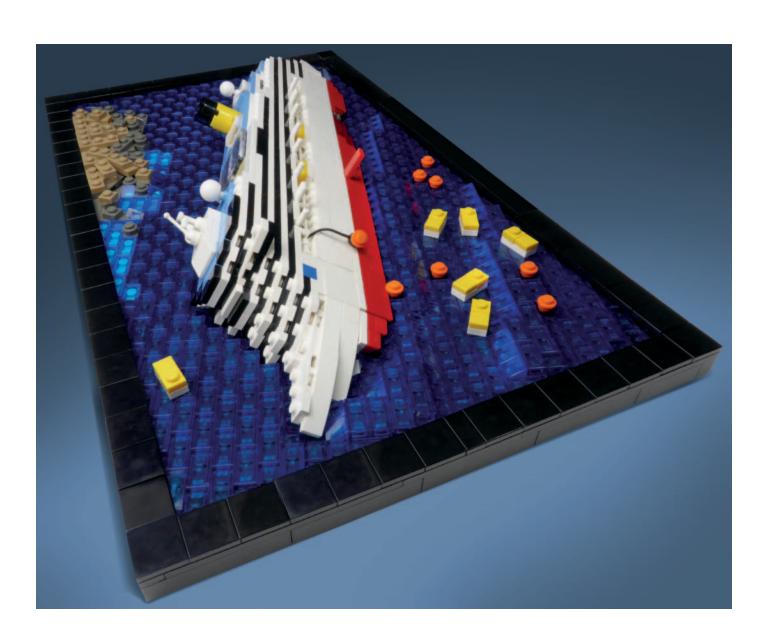












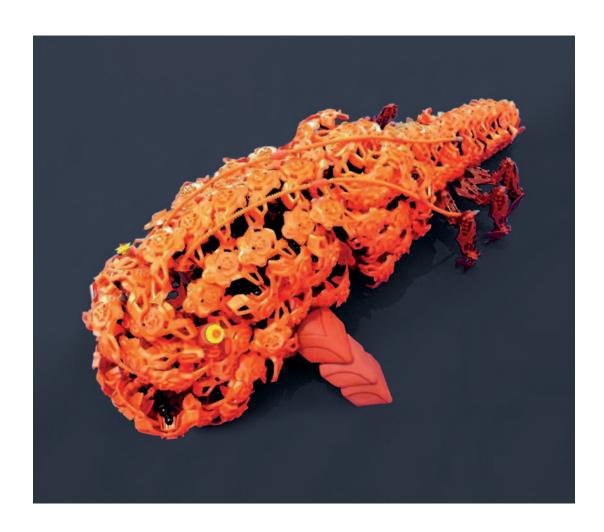




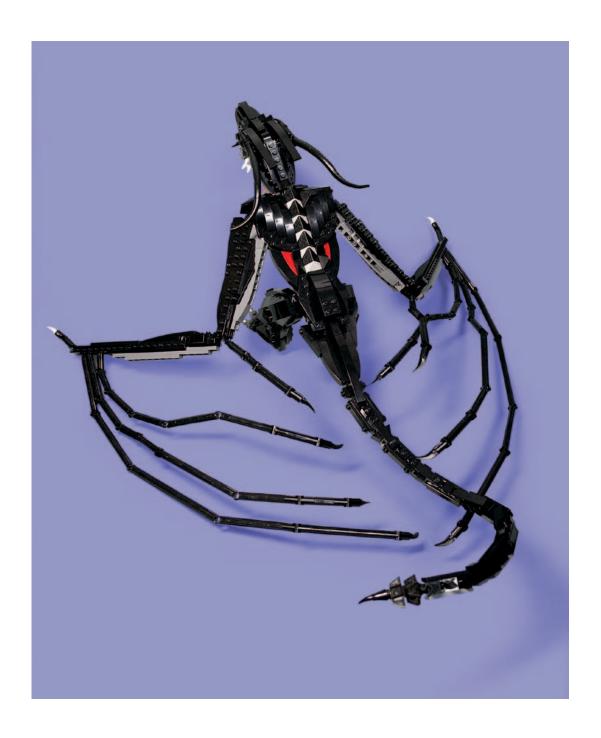








Dragon Lore



















(top) Tim Goddard Dragon 2013

(bottom) Mark Erickson Snatched 2013 (4000+ pieces)





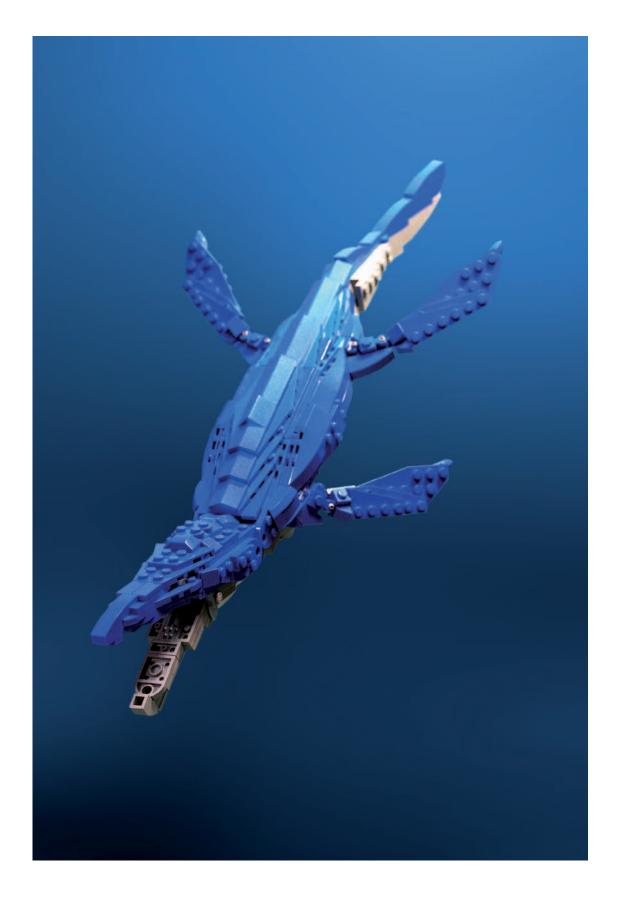


(above) Lukasz Wiktorowicz Sierconus Coralus 2012 (14 pieces)



Jurassica





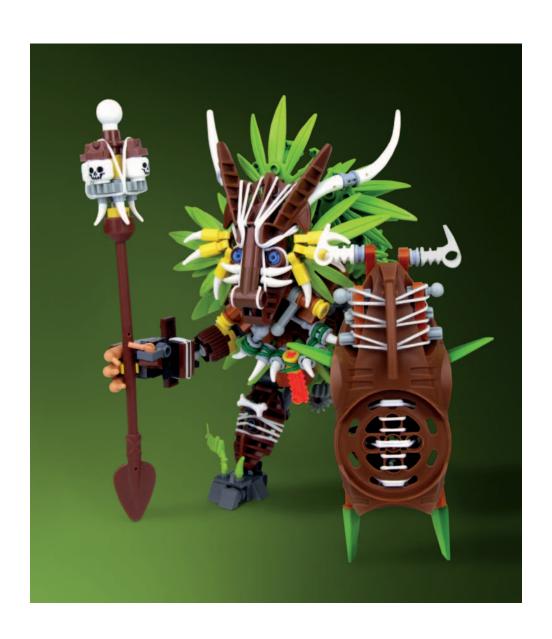






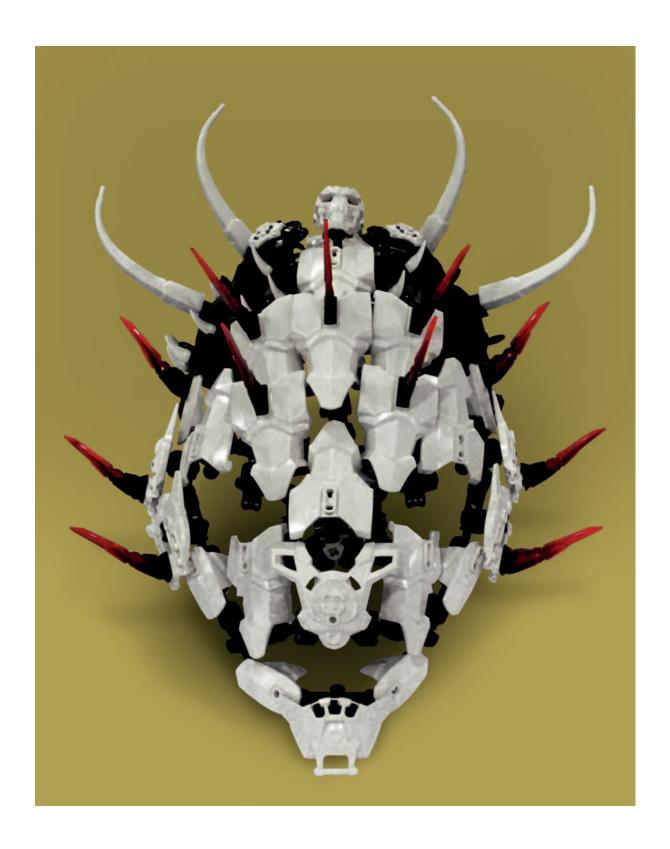


Evil Attunement



(above) Nicolaas Vás Tribull 2013





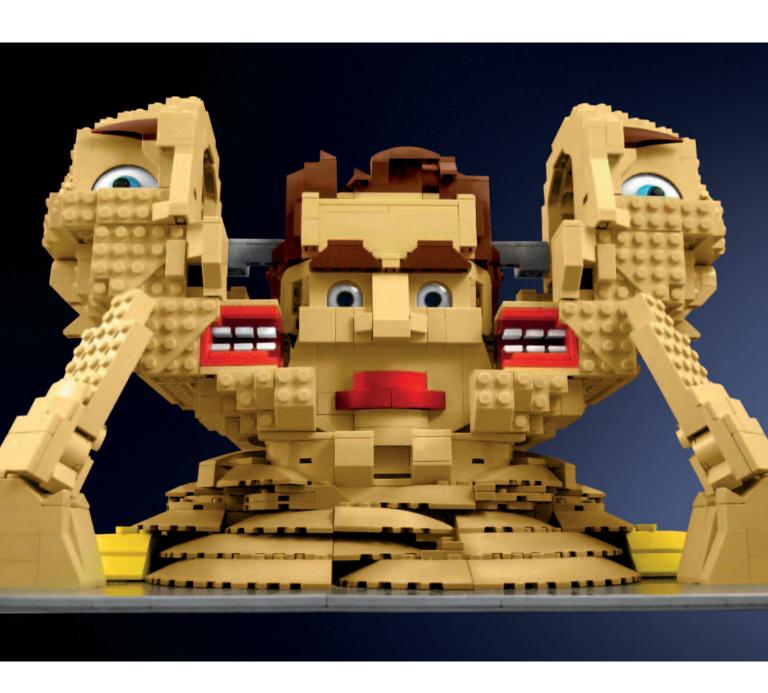


Skin and Bones



(above)
Matt Armstrong
Inside an AFOL 2012 (175-200 pieces)







(opposite) Stuart Delahay "Two Weeks" 2013





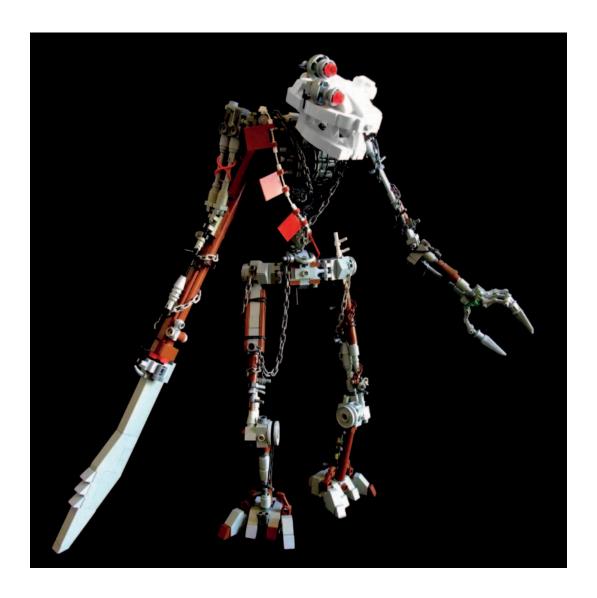
(opposite) Stuart Delahay Gemini 2013

(above) Mike Nieves Magikarp Skeleton 2011 (~200 pieces)





Almost Human













(top)
Daniel Shehadeh
The Contrast of Two Worlds 2010

(bottom) Mateusz Btaszczyk Brainzzz 2013 (188 pieces)

(opposite) Tyler Halliwell Giant 2013 (~800 pieces)



Disrepair











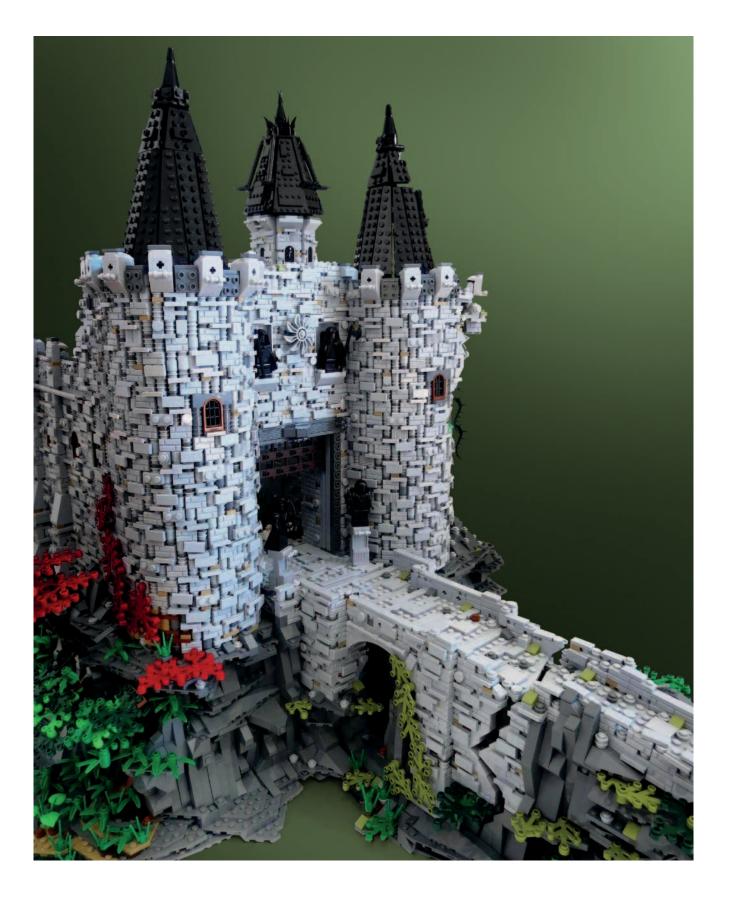
Dark Towers

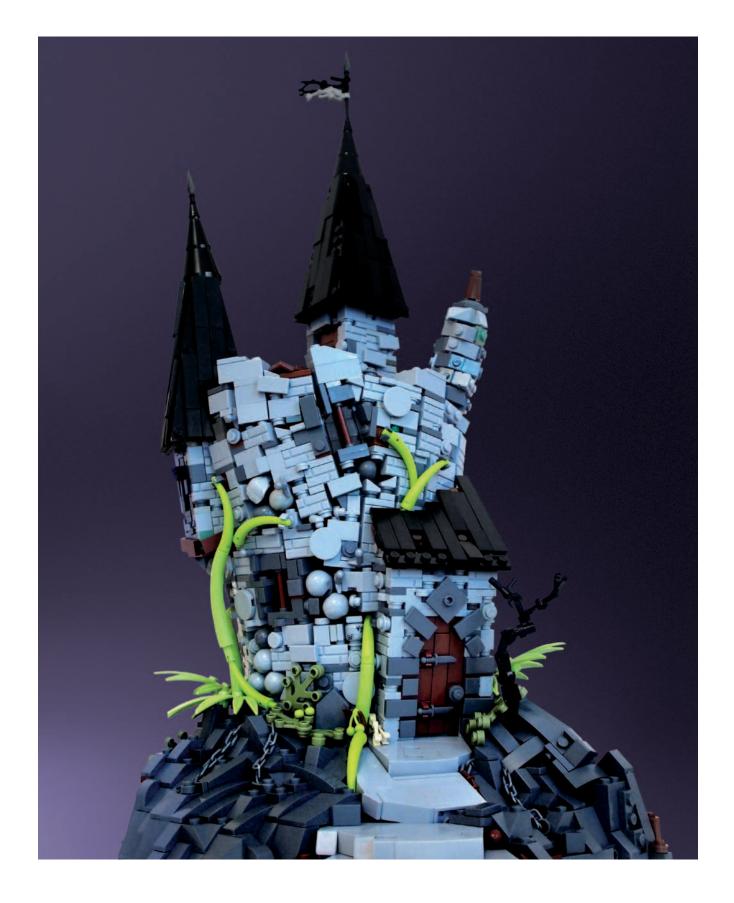


(above)
Anton Fedin
SKYHOLM - The Flying City 2013 (~4000 pieces)

(opposite)
David Hensel
Skull Tower 2013 (~2000 pieces)















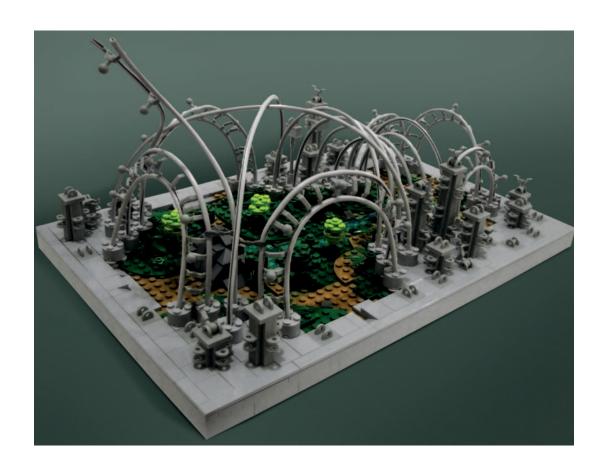
Desolate



(above) Günther Möbius Winter Pavilion 2012 (~800 pieces)

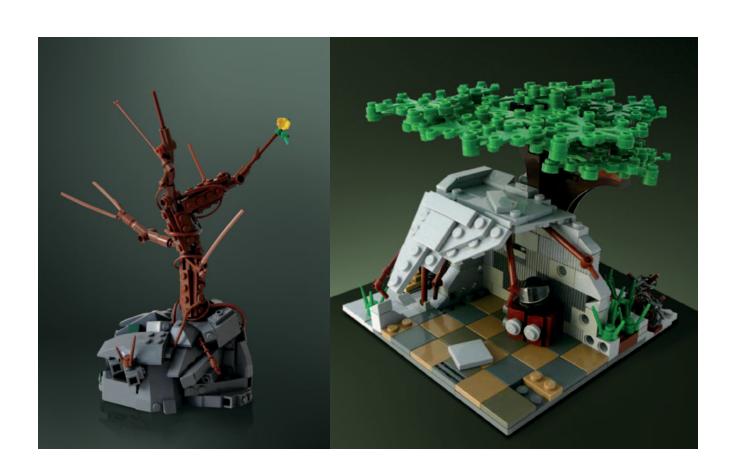
(opposite)
David Hensel
Crow's Nest 2013 (1600 pieces)











(left) Jonas Kramm Hope 2013













Brian Kescenovitz

LEGO is my perfect artistic medium. It is a vast, ever expanding, reusable toolset to bring your imagination to life. It is simple enough for children to use, but complex enough that, like most art forms, you can never truly master it. But what is it about LEGO that I believe fits me better than other artistic mediums? Ironically, the answer is not found in the vast creative freedom LEGO allows, but rather in the limitations it imposes.

For better or worse, I tend to be a bit of a perfectionist in my creative pursuits. I change and tweak and revise and redo things until they are just so, and LEGO certainly lends itself to doing just that. Don't like how a certain brick or section of a build looks? Just pull it off and redo it—no mess, no fuss, no waiting for paint to dry or erasing wayward pencil marks. It's a good deal simpler to use than traditional artistic mediums. So simple, in fact, that a hopeless perfectionist such as myself could potentially continue to change and tweak things indefinitely and never actually finish the piece . . . right?

Ah, but there in lies the beauty of LEGO as a medium for someone like me. Though there is certainly no end to the types of creations that you can build with LEGO, you do have a finite selection of colors and pieces to work with. You are also limited by the ways in which individual pieces can interact with and attach to other pieces.

These limits allow me to focus on a few important aspects of design, like form and composition, and not worry about making the perfect brushstroke or mixing just the right shade of mauve. So for me, LEGO is a less daunting framework within which to create things.

Indeed, rather than restricting my creativity, I find that working within the LEGO framework inspires the confidence to take chances and push the limits of what is possible. And that, my friends, is where it really gets fun: taking those humble little bricks and finessing them into something that is so much more than the sum of its parts. It's like solving a puzzle; finding just the right combination of parts to use or coming up with a new way to connect a piece brings with it an immense sense of satisfaction and enjoyment.

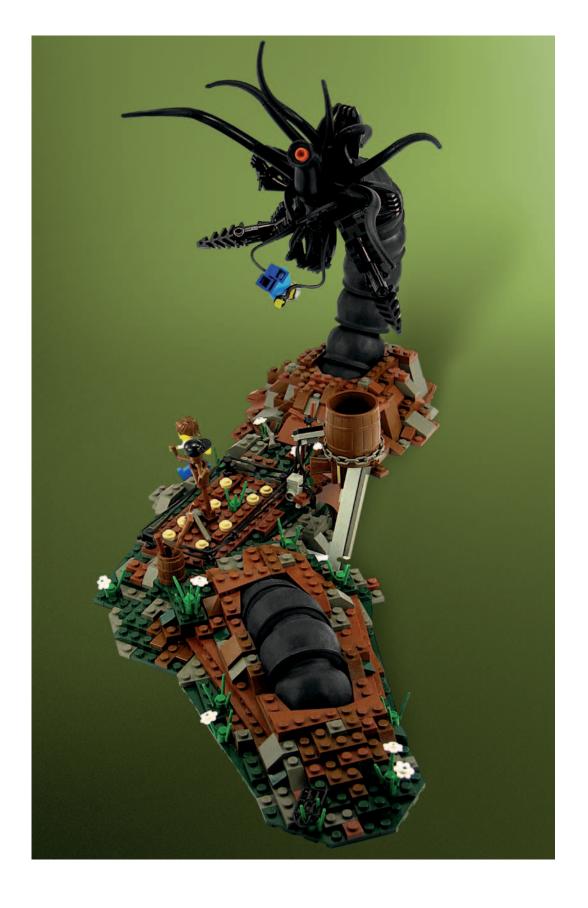
Of course, being fussy is not a requirement to build with LEGO. The medium lends itself to all ages and levels of ability, from Master Builders to children picking up bricks for that magical first time. But for me at least, working in LEGO provides me with something of great value that I struggle to find in many of my other pursuits: the ability to actually finish what I start.











Indulgences







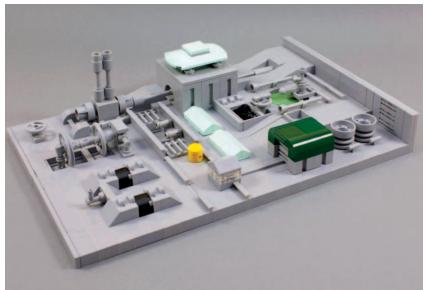


Mike Doyle Sickening Sweet 2014 (~10,000 pieces)





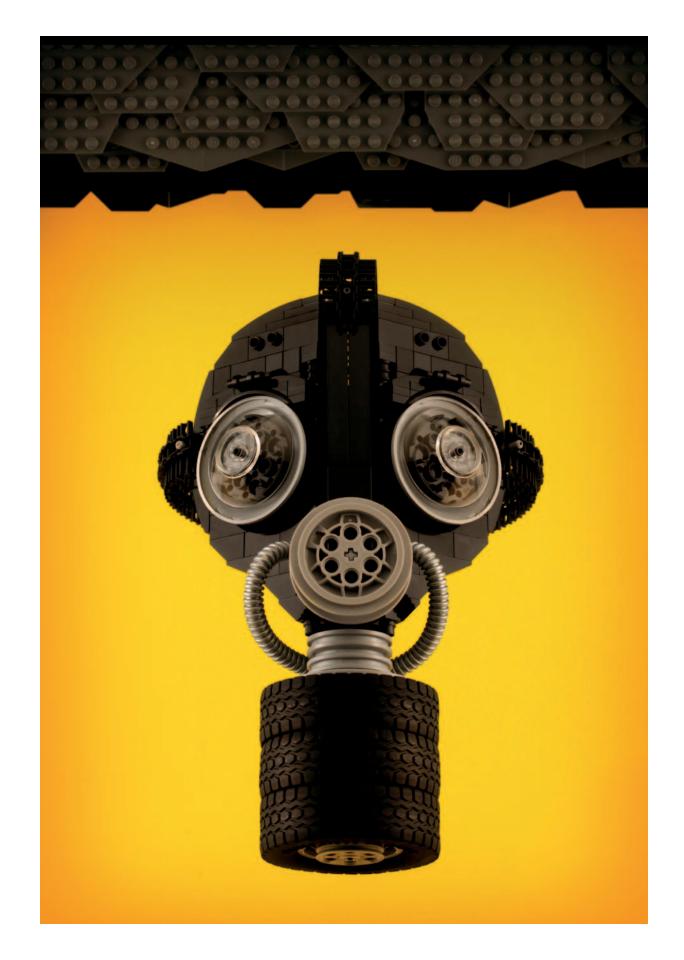
Make. Pollute. Make.





Rob van Hoesel

(top) Home-to-work 2013 (~160 pieces) (bottom) Sanitation 2013 (~350 pieces)









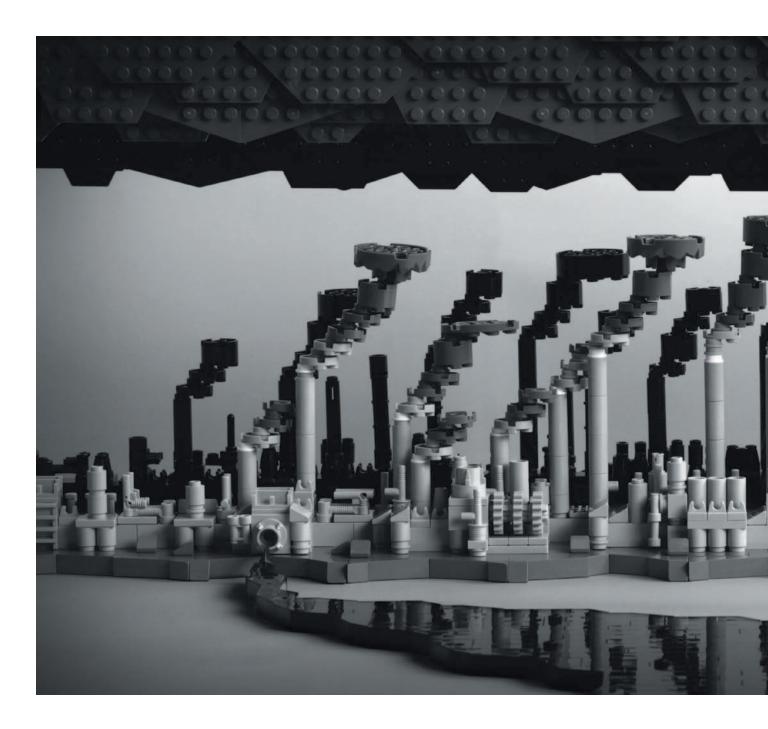


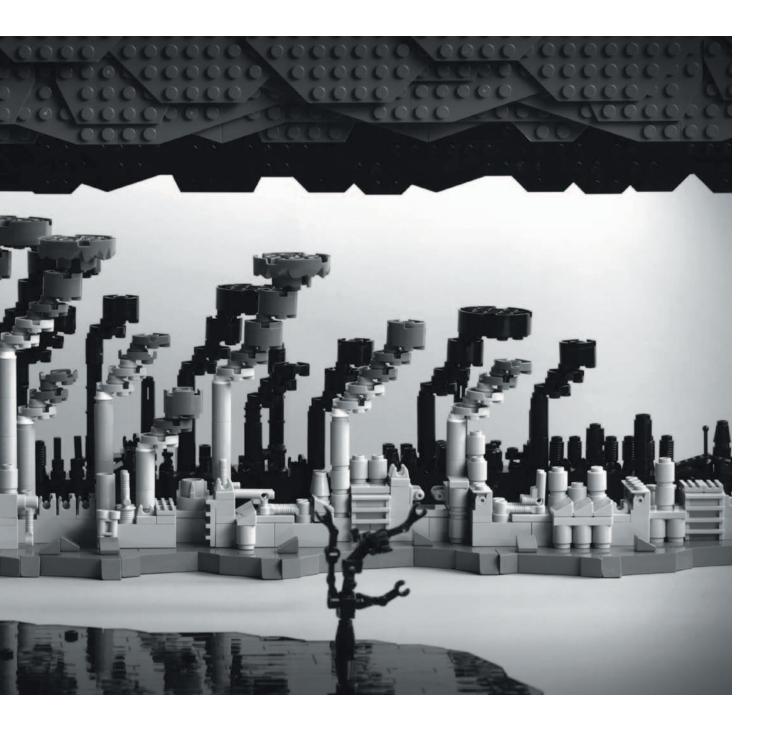
(above) Maciej Kocot Abandoned Factory 2014 (~900 pieces)

(opposite top)
Aaron Van Cleave
Going (Toxic) Green 2014 (~750 pieces)

(opposite middle) Joe Miserendino Thompson Machine Works 2013 (~1500 pieces)

(opposite bottom) Nikolay Abalov Micro Plant [digital render] 2012 (109 pieces)





The Robber Barons



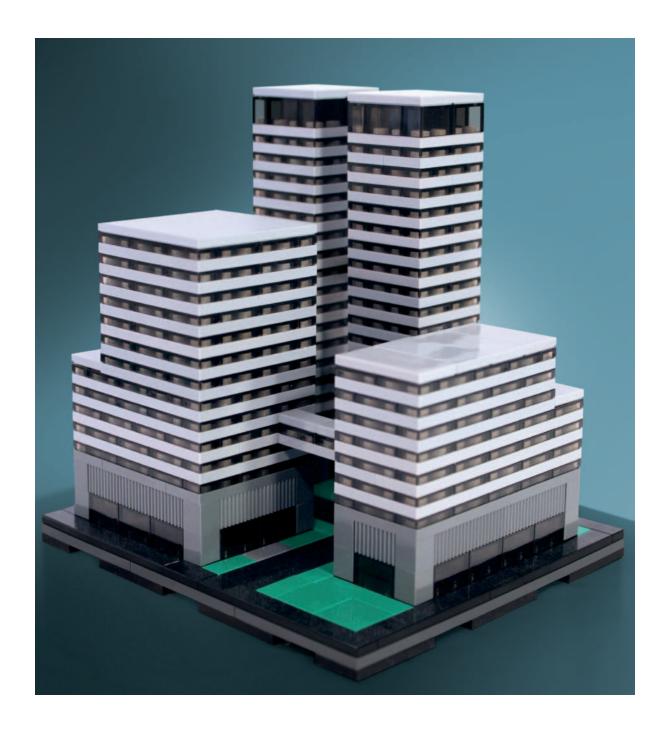


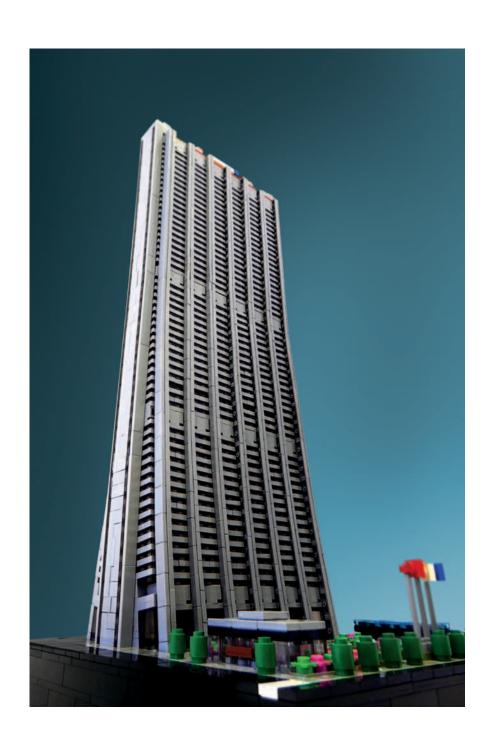


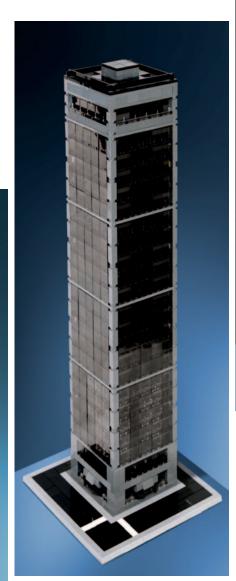


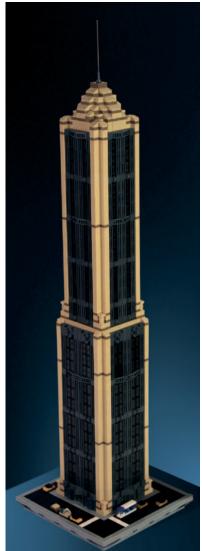


Greed Co., Unlimited















Joe Miserendino

(opposite left) Grayling Tower 2013 (~1000 pieces) (opposite middle) Dark Inc HQ 2012 (~1200 pieces) (opposite right) The Bancroft 2011 (~1200 pieces)

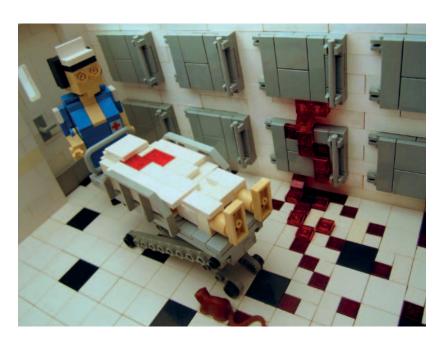
(left) Jens Ohrndorf MetLife Building, NYC, USA 2011 (~200 pieces)

(right)
Yo Sub Joo
63 Building in Yeouido, Seoul, South Korea 2013 (-14,000 pieces)





Oh the Horror!





Dan Parker and Team at Dan Parker LEGO Artist

(top) One for the Freezer 2009 (-900 pieces)
(bottom) Visiting Hours 2009 (-850 pieces)
(opposite top) Cavities 2009 (-1125 pieces)
(opposite left) Removal 2009 (-1040 pieces)
(opposite right) Roommates 2009 (-700 pieces)

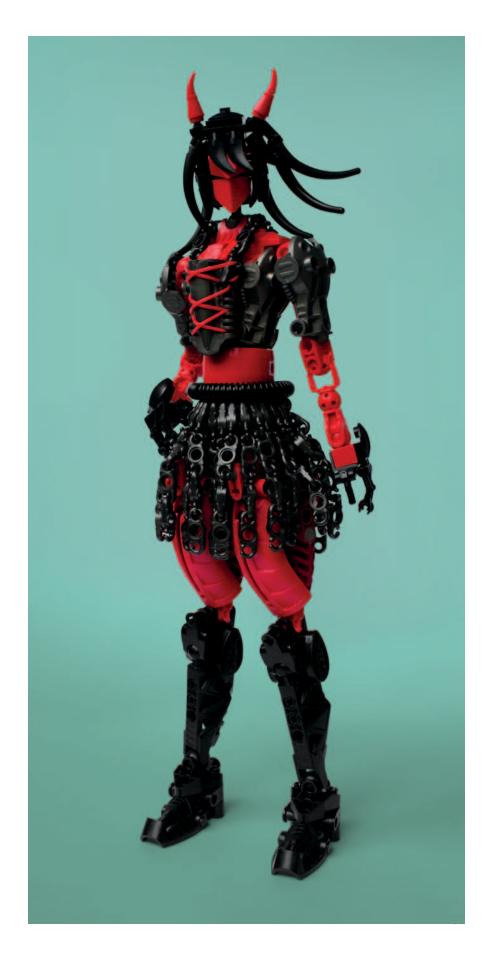


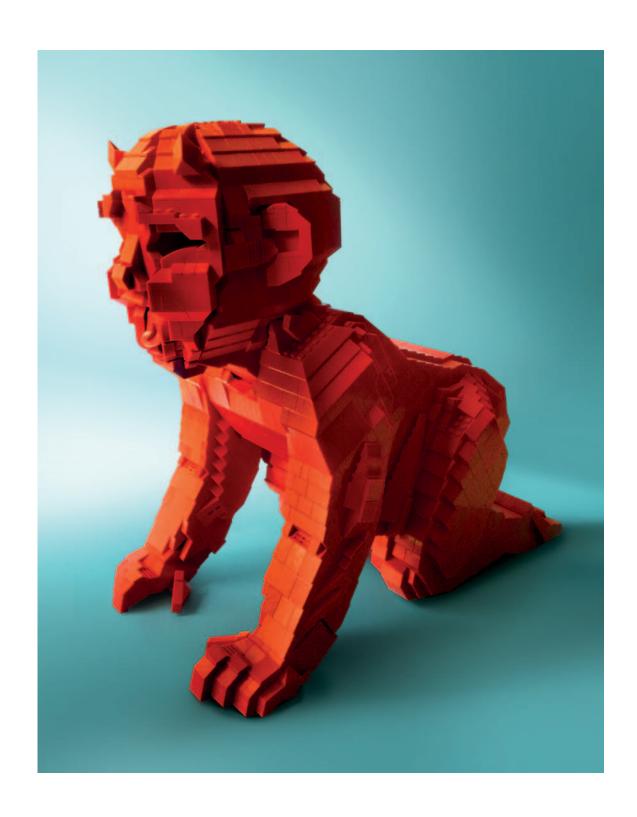




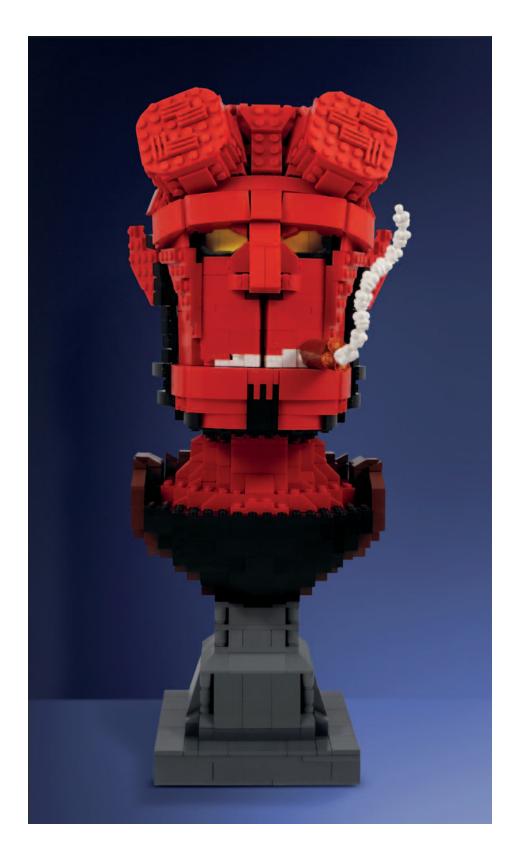
Pits of Fire

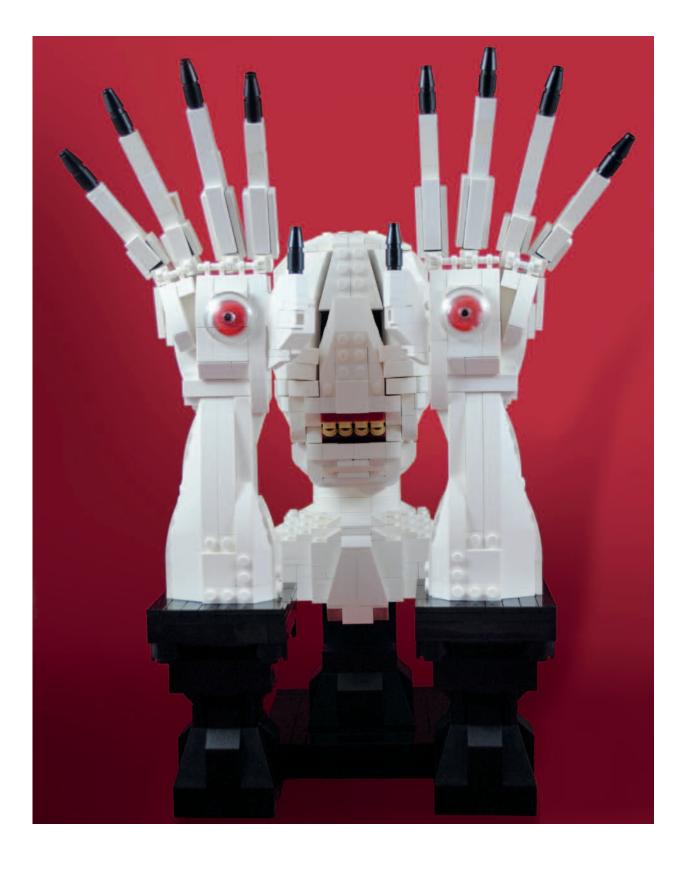






















Mihai Marius Mihu

Nine Circles of Hell 2011-2012

(top) Violence (center) Anger (bottom) Heresy

(opposite top) Greed (opposite bottom) Gluttony

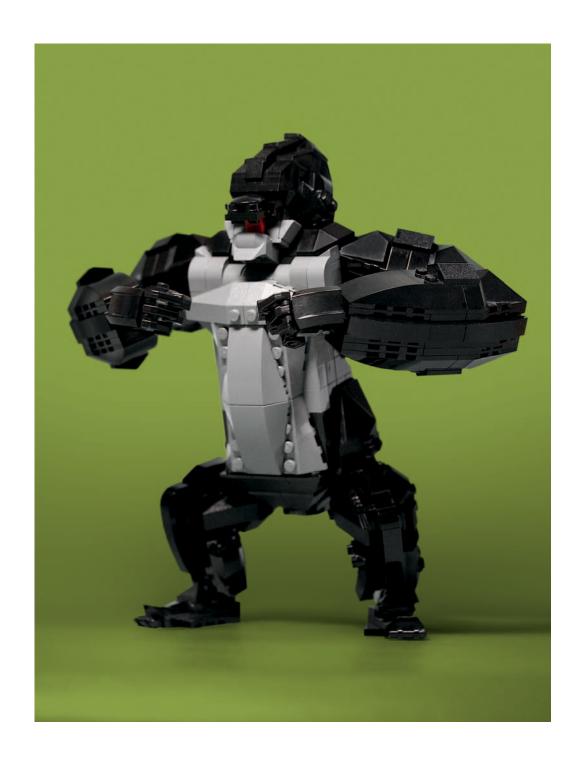




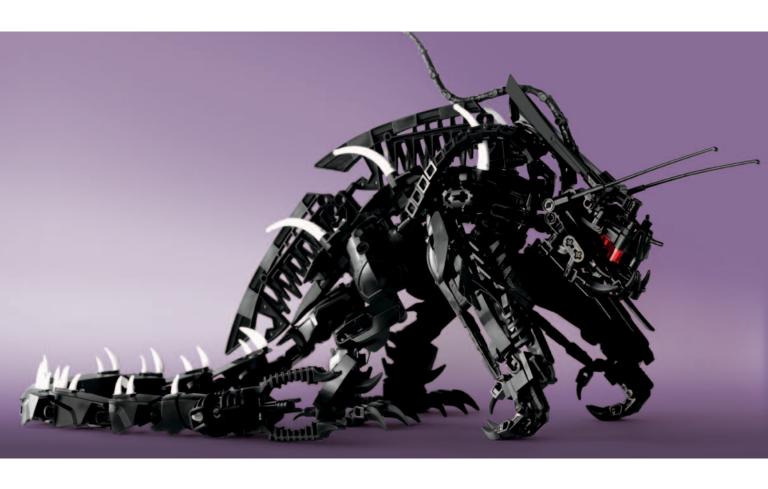
Beastiary















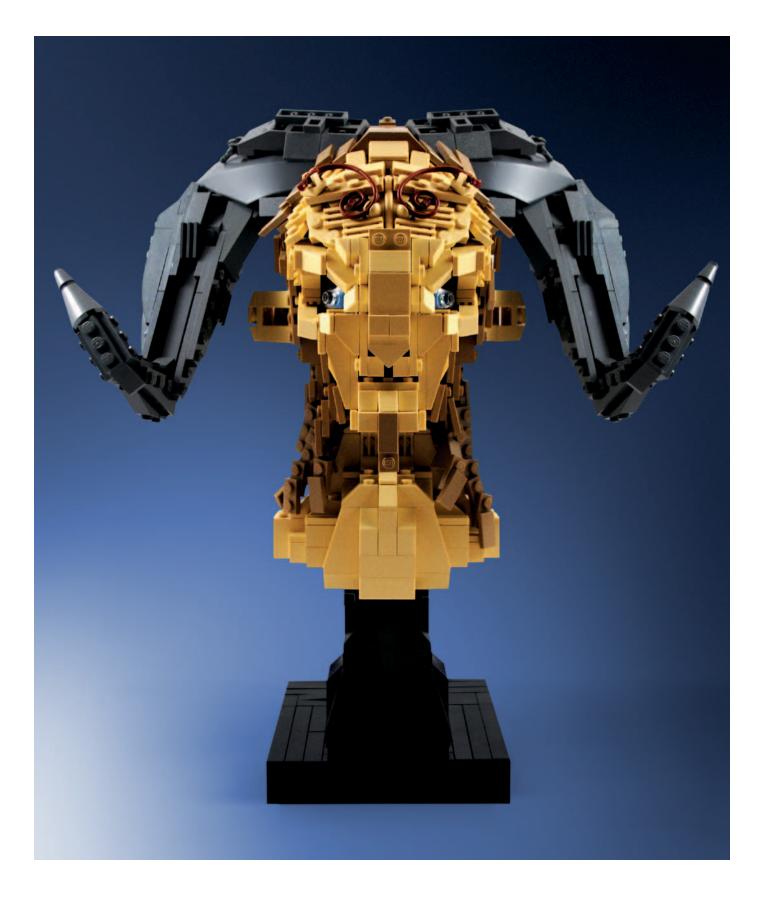












Mecha









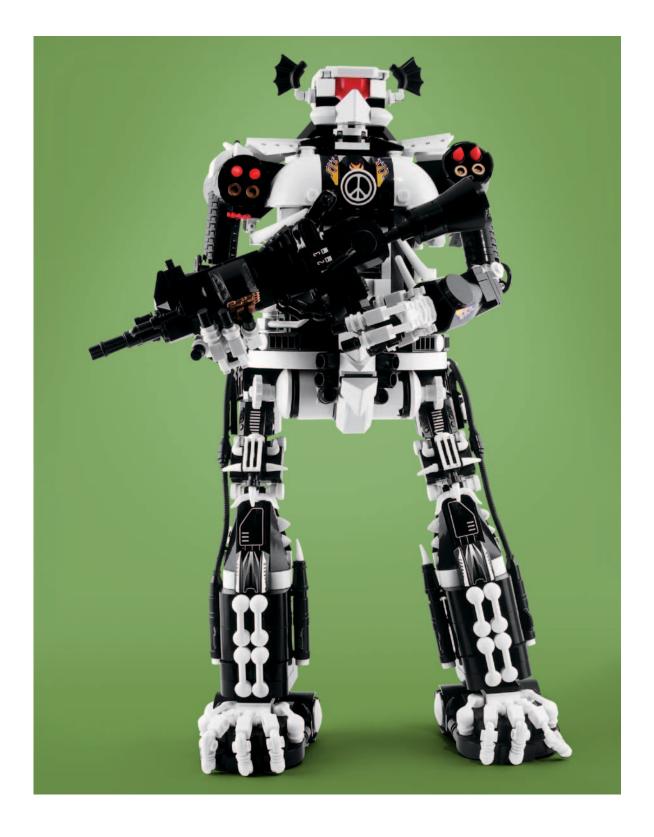


(opposite) Djordje Dobrosavljevic Colossus 2013

Izo Yoshimura

(top) Ebeken 2012 (bottom) Tiny Multiped 2012









(left)
Andrew N. Swink
Tali'Zorah nar Rayya 2010 (364 pieces)

(right)
Nathan DeCastro
XV-1011 El-Ahrairah 2013 (~230 pieces)

(opposite) Patrick Biggs Hahli Husky 2014 (~400 pieces)

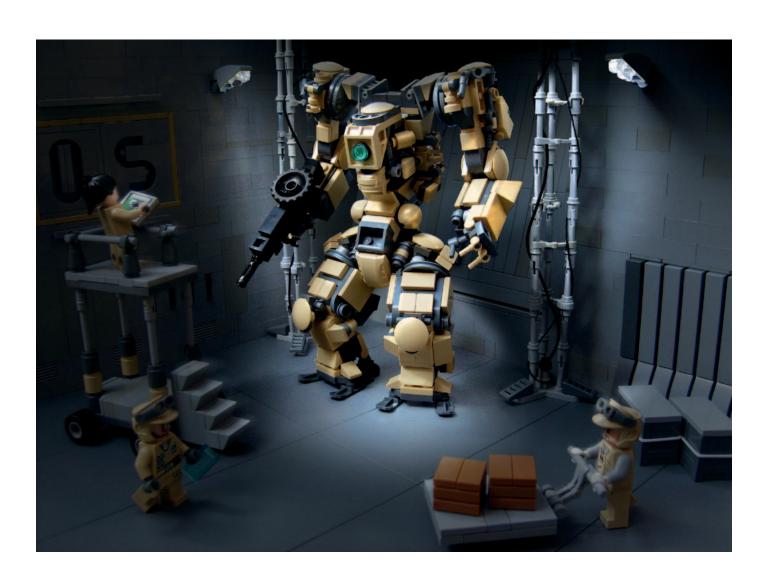


















C lin Bor

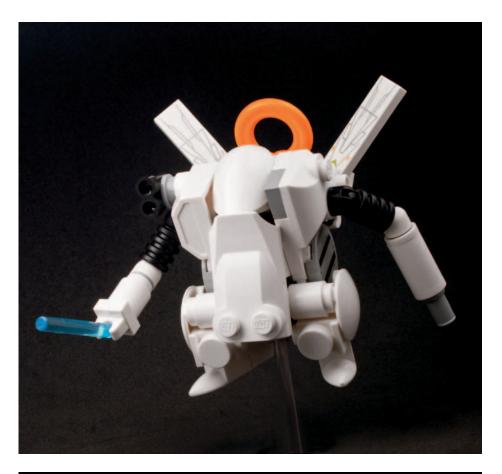
(above) TO4 "Gunner" 2012 (opposite top) TO3 "Hazmat" 2012 (opposite left) TO2 "Faust" 2012 (opposite right) TO5 "Fatboy" 2012













(top) C lin Bor T01 "Engel" 2012

(bottom)
Pascal Schmidt
Neo-Angel Raziel 2013 (~150 pieces)











(bottom left) Angus MacLane Herbert 2012 (138 pieces)

(bottom right) Ryuhei Kawai LHB-ZT-002 SENGEN 2013 (~200 pieces)

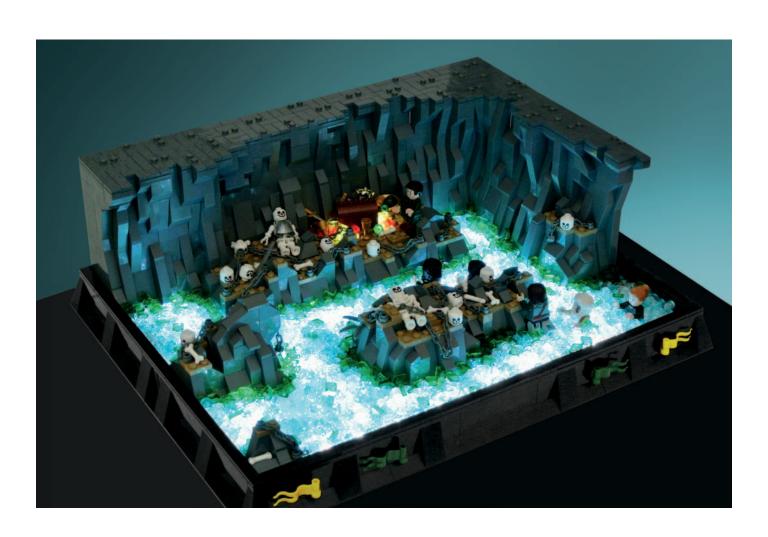




Dark Forces

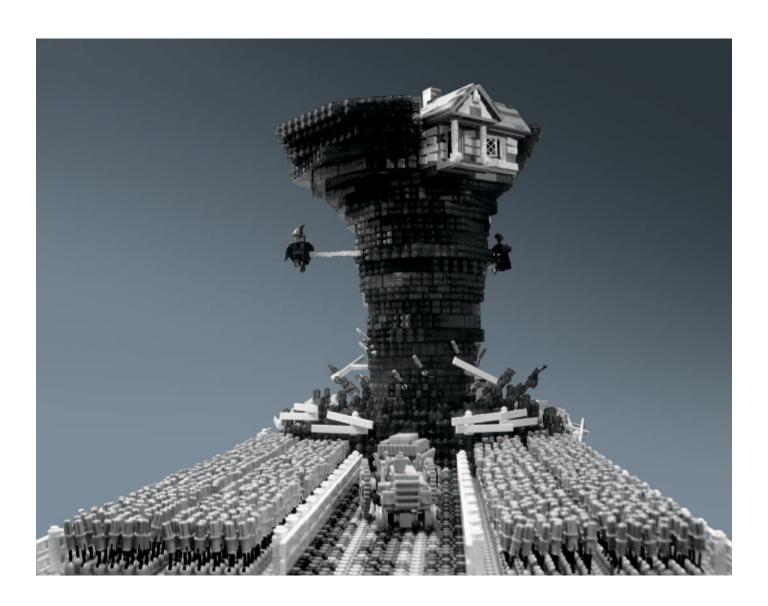




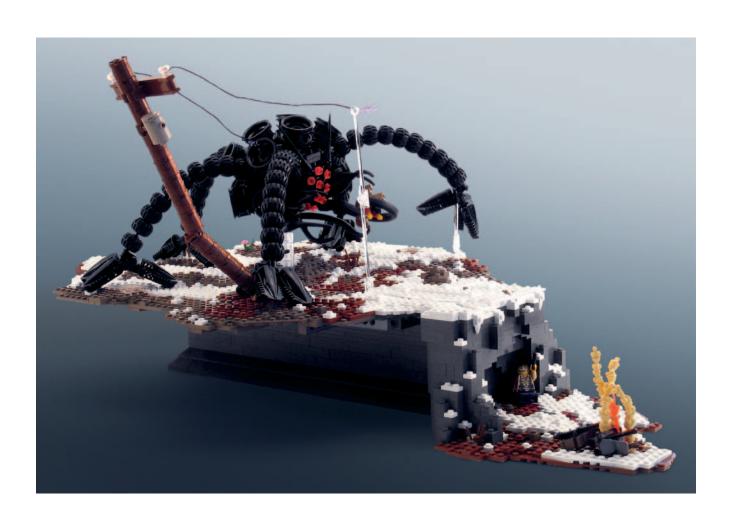




(opposite)
Paul Trach
Magic Cave 2013 (~2800 pieces)







(above)

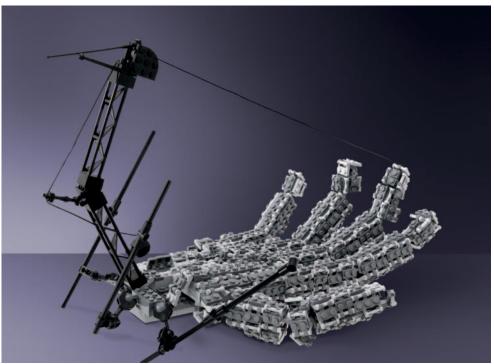
Justin Vaughn

Howl of Lamentations Unending 2008 (1000 pieces)

(opposite top) Brian Rinker Alone 2014 (~600 pieces)

(opposite bottom) Kristóf Albert Hand of the Builder 2014 (-850 pieces)













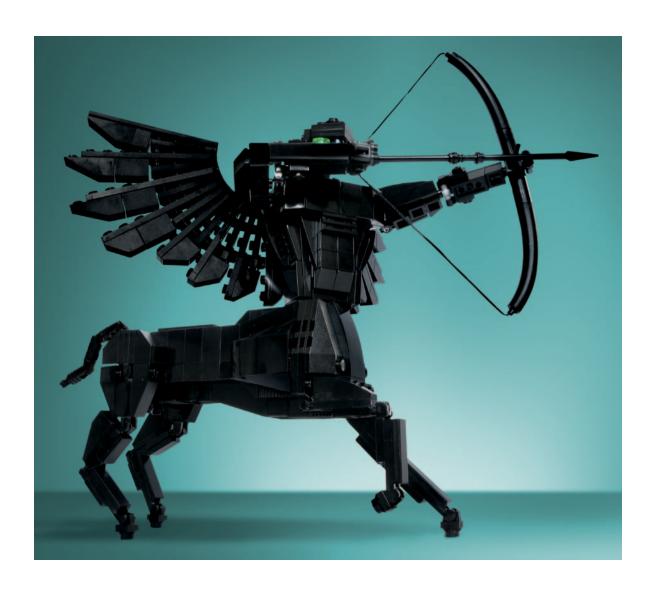


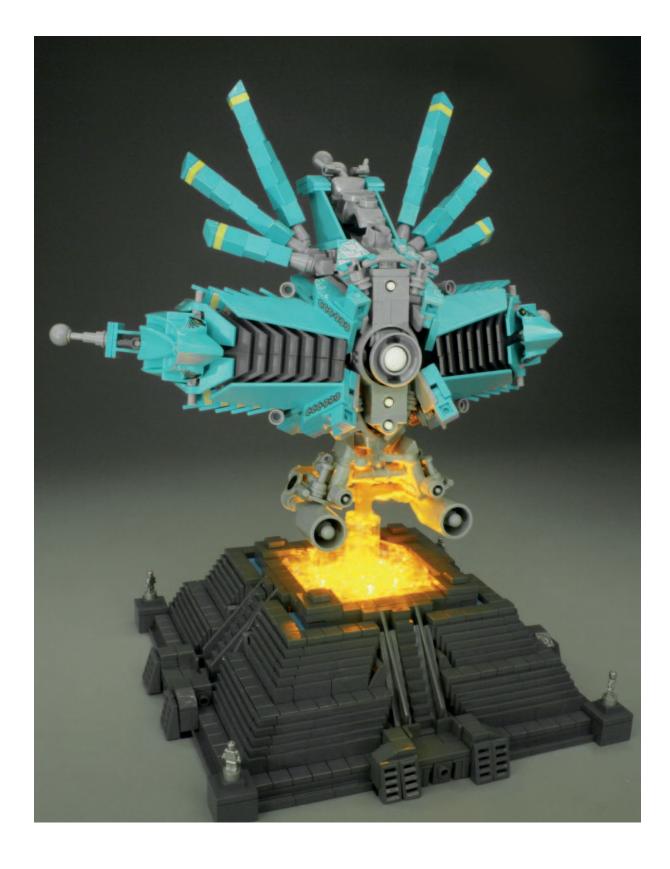






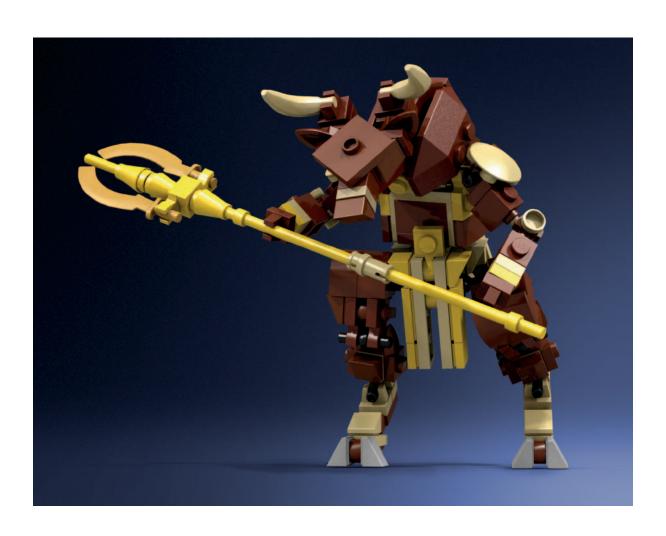
Mythos



















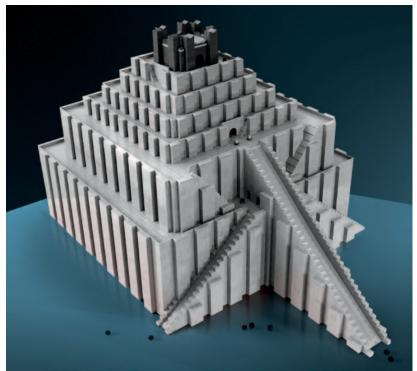






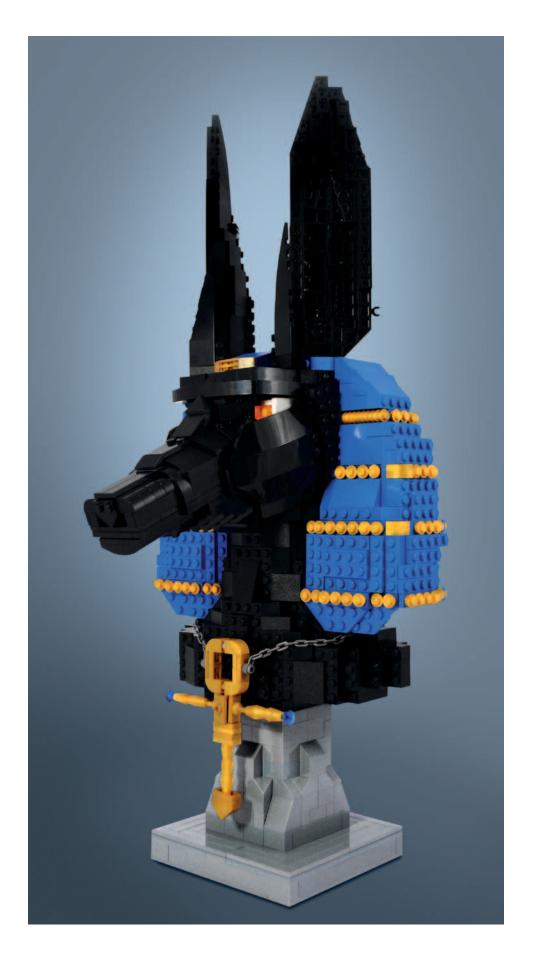






(top) leyasu Tse Lei-Lei/Hsien-Ko 2011 (-200 pieces)

(bottom) Michal Herbolt Etemenanki Zikkurat 2010 (3,000-4,000 pieces)



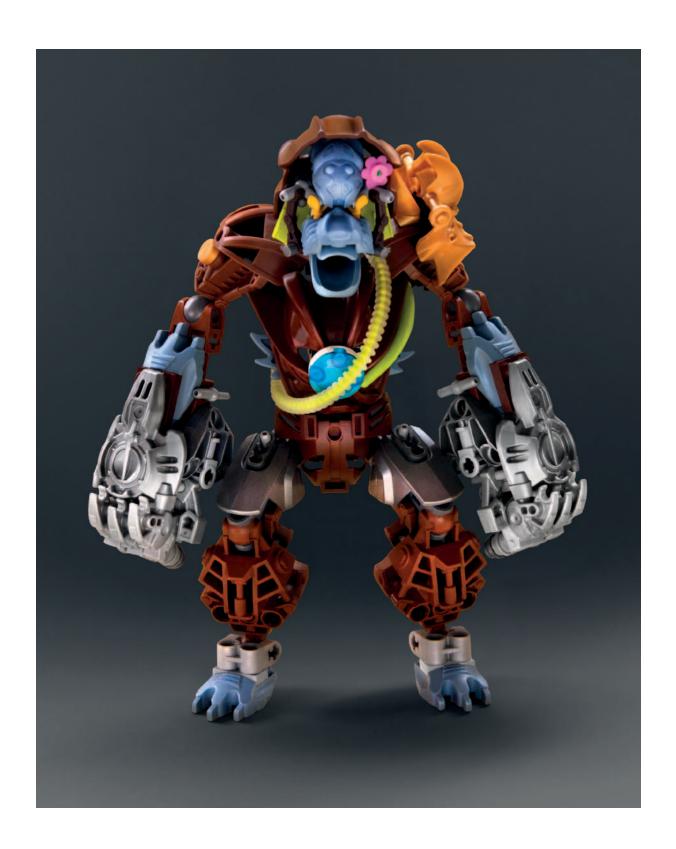


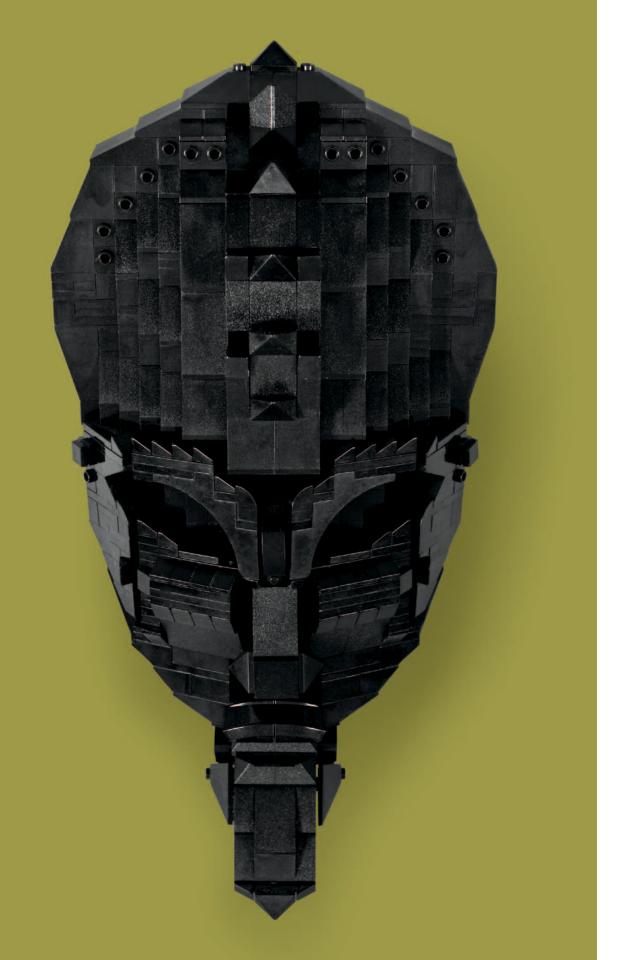
(above) Tyler Clites Poseidon Float 2011



Otherworldly

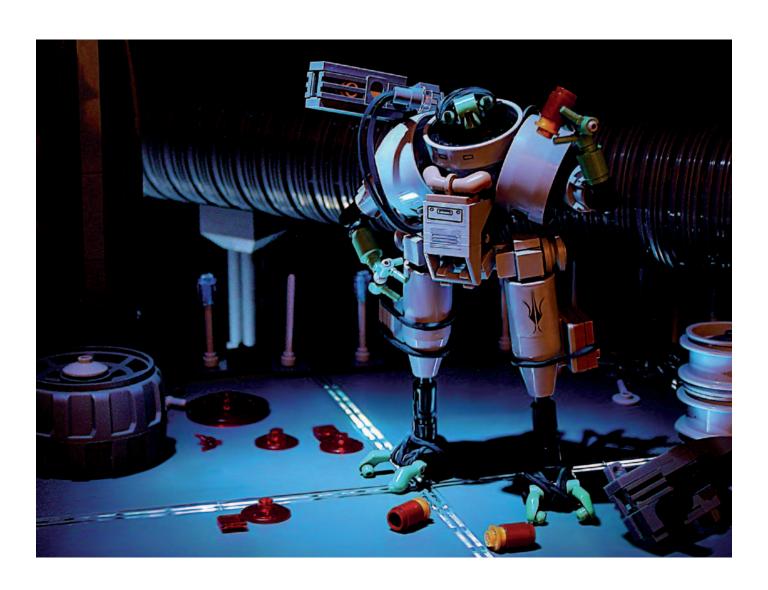








(opposite) Ekow Nimako Lady Ama 2013 (~900 pieces)





Patriot Axe





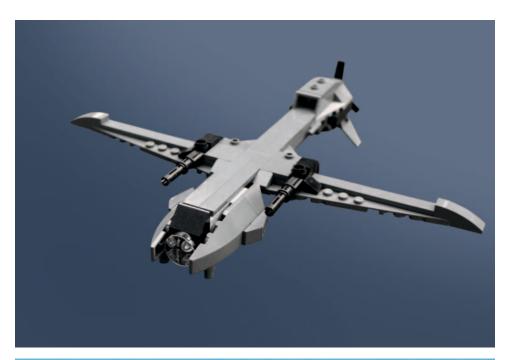
Blake Baer detail from Fort McHenry 2010

> (bottom) Mike Nieves Flag 2013 (~100 pieces)

(opposite) Carl Merriam Motorized Patriot 2014 (-600 pieces)









(top) Almando Batangtaris UAV Drone Fighter 2013









Wild Rides

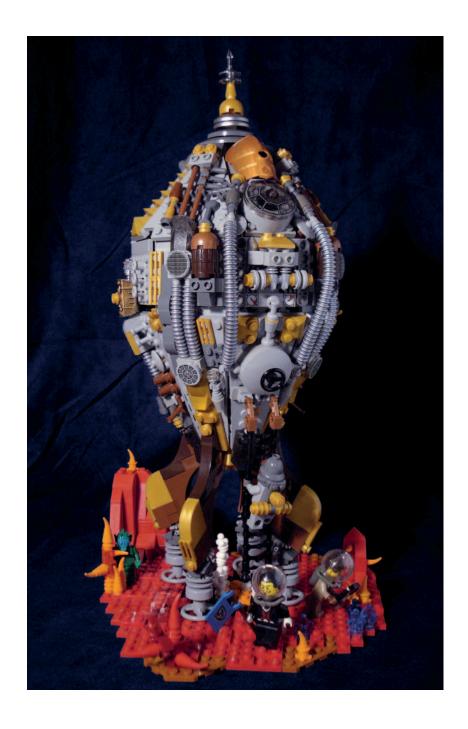








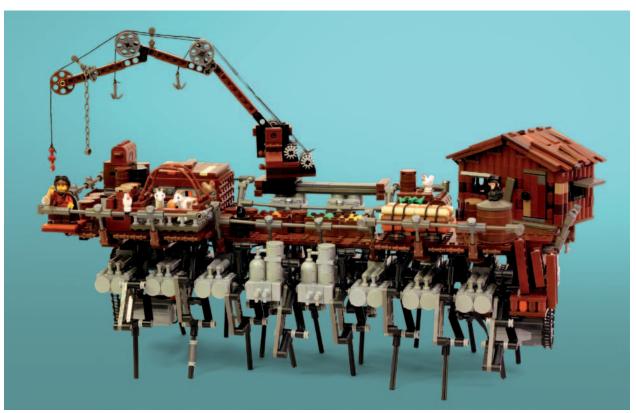




(above) Sylvain Amacher Steam Rocket 2010 (~1200 pieces)

(opposite top) Jason Allemann Lord Ship Amagosa 2013 (~1000 pieces)

> (opposite bottom) Kristóf Albert Savage Rider 2014 (~300 pieces)





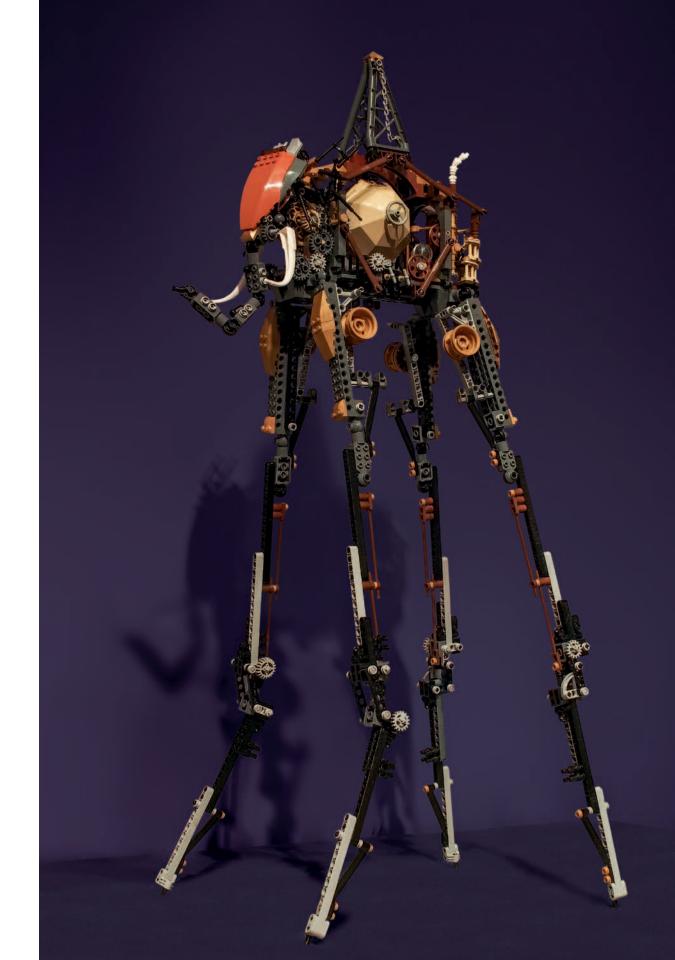




(top) Ming-Wei Huang Nightmare Carriage 2011 (621 pieces)

> (bottom) Jimmy Fortel Steam Temple 2013

(opposite) Hak Jin Kim The Elephant 2013 (1004 pieces)



Mihai Marius Mihu

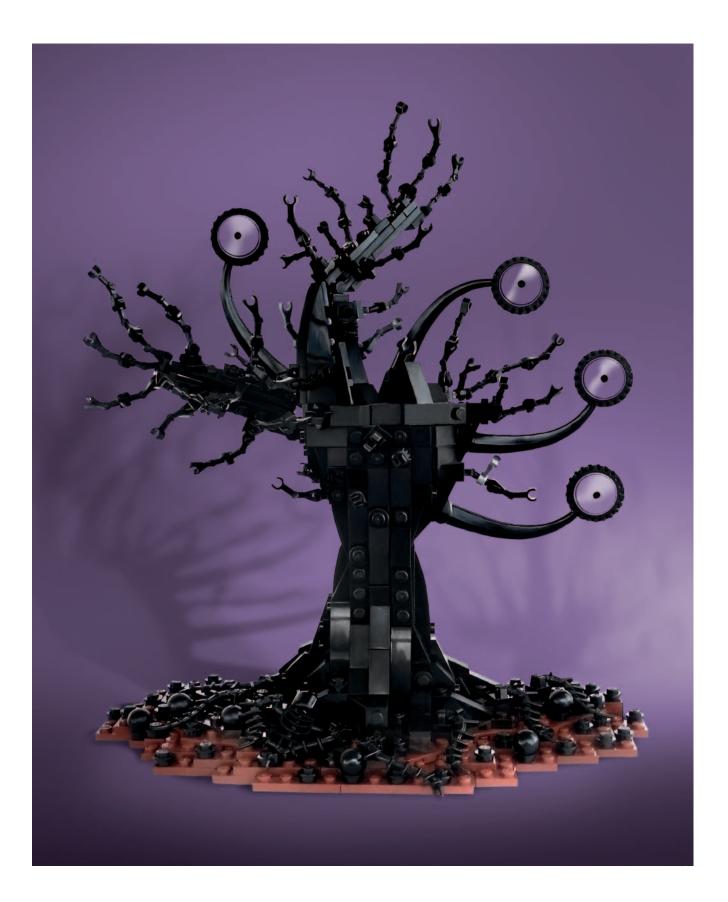


Why LEGO?

I've always been hooked on drawing. Drawing was my first true passion, and it was something that came naturally for me. I remember spending countless hours drawing from my imagination; I loved the experience of creating, the sense of achievement.

LEGO was something that I came upon much later. It wasn't until a few years ago that I bought my first LEGO set, but I was instantly captivated by the complexity, diversity of parts, and, of course, the process of building. There are many reasons why I like LEGO, but what I love most about it is that it merges perfectly with my other passion—drawing. For me, the process of building with LEGO is like drawing.

I love LEGO because I can create expressive and interesting works of art.











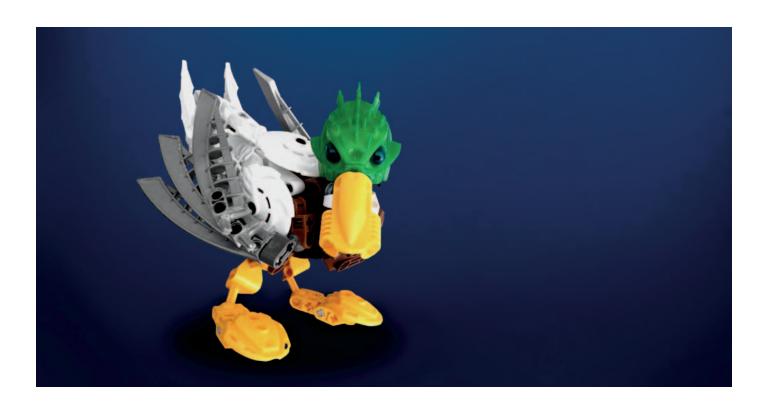
The Birds













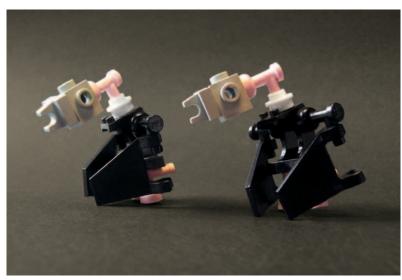




















The Bewitching Hour







Riot Girls















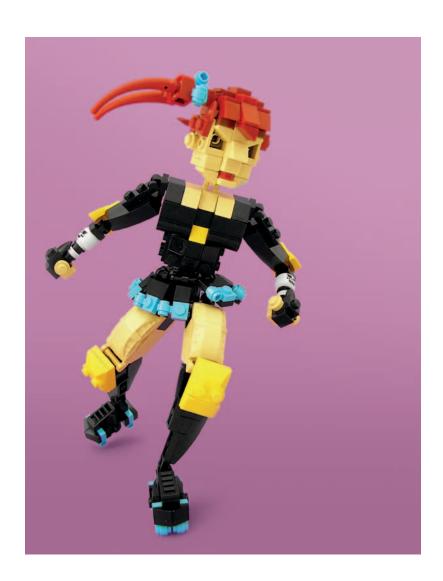


(opposite) Mike Dung Flandre Scarlet 2013

(above) Evan Bordessa Little Red 2012 (~400 pieces)









Bad Boys



(above) Andrew Lee Yoshimitsu 2012 (~2000 pieces)

(opposite)
Dylan Mievis
Captain Redbeard 2014 (205 pieces)







(opposite) Jimmy Fortel Lucky Luke 2013 (~1200 pieces)

(above) Dmitriy Selivanov Fateful Encounter 2013

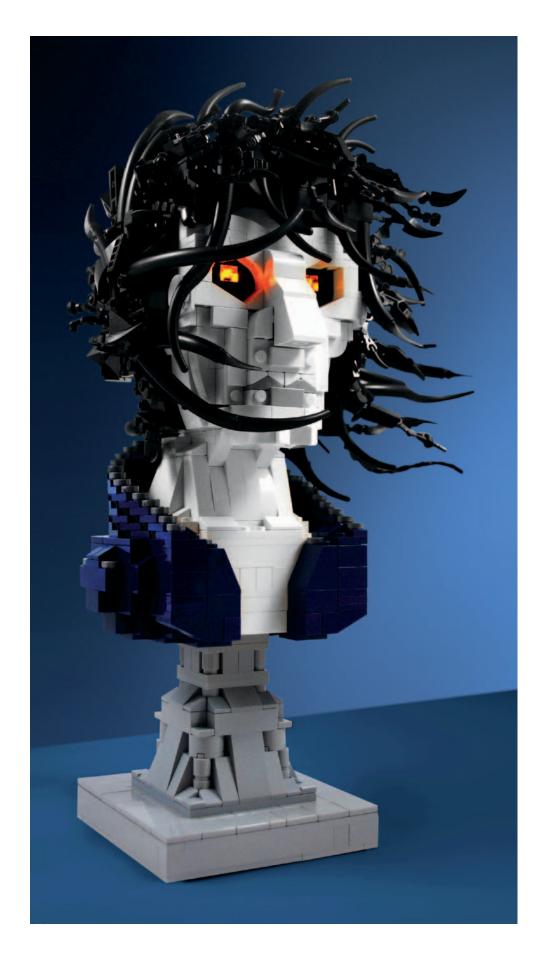






(above) Gilcélio de Souza Chagas Old Electric Chair 2013

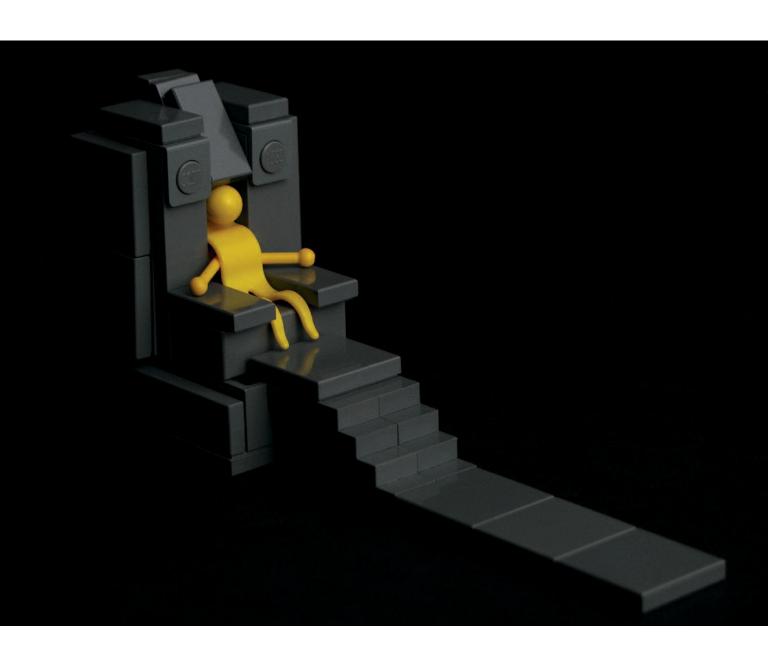






(opposite) Tyler Halliwell The Sandman 2014 (~1500 pieces)

(above) Ian Spacek The Joker 2014 (~150 pieces)





(opposite) Brian Kescenovitz The King in Yellow 2013 (50 pieces)

(above) Bartosz Kacprzyk Henry VIII 2013 (19 pieces)

Contributors

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- **Abalov, Nikolay** ("NickAb"), http://flickr.com/photos/ nick_ab: Micro Plant [digital render] (2012), 176
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