

GEM PAVER
SYSTEMS INC.



LARGER THAN LIFE

As a young man, Jorge Fernandez put his passion for art aside to find employment that would put food on the table and keep a roof over his head. Today, at 55, Fernandez, owner of the largest single paver-producing plant in North America, has secured his financial future so that his art no longer has to sit on the sidelines. "I always wanted to be an artist, and now I have the time and money to do what I love," he says.

His artwork consists of larger-than-life stainless steel sculptures that stand nine to ten feet tall and take anywhere from weeks to months to conceive and skillfully craft. Each shares similar structural characteristics from their abstract humanoid figures to their incorporation of meaningful symbols that distinguish Fernandez's work with his own personalized iconographic language.

Fernandez refers to these sculptures as his "Welcome to..." collection, desiring them to be accessible, loveable, and even huggable. His ability to smooth the heavy metal into velvety softness enables these gentle giants to be viewed as multi-dimensional, bringing about multiple interpretations.

"Working at Gem Pavers is my hobby. I am a full-time sculptor," says Fernandez, who now has a full-time art manager and plans to showcase his work at Art Basel Miami Beach.