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Artist's mannequin awaits permission to startle people

By Ken Keuffel, JOURNAL REPORTER Nov 3, 2009

Sleepwalker has yet to sleep -- or walk.

The sculpture -- which Mark Jenkins created for "Inside Out: Artists in the Community II," a public-art program of the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art -- was to have been installed yesterday at the Campbell Transportation Center on Fifth Street.

But the State Property Office hadn't yet signed off on a land-use agreement between SECCA and the city, said Mark Leach, SECCA's director. That put the installation on hold.

"I wish we had held back on the public relations," Leach said. "I didn't know we'd run into this delay."

Leach also said that he underestimated the time needed to get a response from the state.

The state's approval was necessary before SECCA, a state agency, could place public art in the public domain, Leach said. The museum had already addressed the city's concerns regarding risk and liability, Martha Wheelock, an assistant city manager, said last week.

Jenkins has stopped pedestrians around the world with his life-size bodies positioned in weird ways.

SECCA has run into problems related to the placement of other Jenkins pieces around the city.

One piece was thought to be a human wrapped in a bag hanging from a tree on the grounds of Reynolda House.

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