



The Art of the Brick

By HispaBrick Magazine®

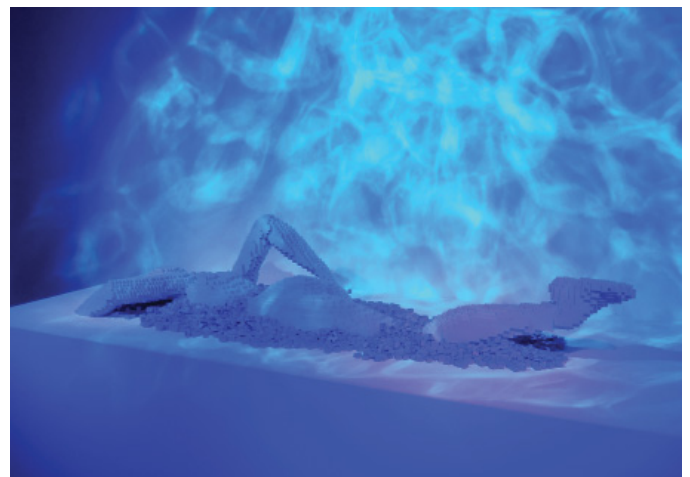
Pictures by HispaBrick Magazine®

Nathan Sawaya was born July, 10th 1973 in Colville (Washington, US). He is well known in the LEGO community given that he is one of the first LEGO artists in the world . HispaBrick Magazine interviewed him in issue 019, there, he explained to us why he decided to start building sculptures with LEGO bricks and the themes behind his work. In this issue we talk about his "The Art of the Brick" gallery that just recently arrived in Barcelona.

Perhaps his most well known sculpture is the yellow man opening his chest, but with a few years spent on building more sculptures, he decided to debut his work worldwide. The exhibition "The Art of the Brick" arrived to Barcelona in March of 2016 after having previously visited North America, Australia, Asia, and the Middle East.

The exhibit contains 110 different works of art, occupying 1900 m2 with different sections named for the colours employed or the theme expressed. "The Art of the Brick" is not only an exhibition for LEGO fans, but also for any art lover, or those who are just curious to see what can be done with LEGO bricks.

HispaBrick Magazine was invited to the official opening. We took one hour to visit the entire exhibition, going room to room and marveling at each piece. After some years of just hearing about his work, it was really exciting to see the exhibition in person. Nathan Sawaya was also there at the opening. We had a small chat with him about the exhibition and he was even kind enough to sign our exhibition guide books.

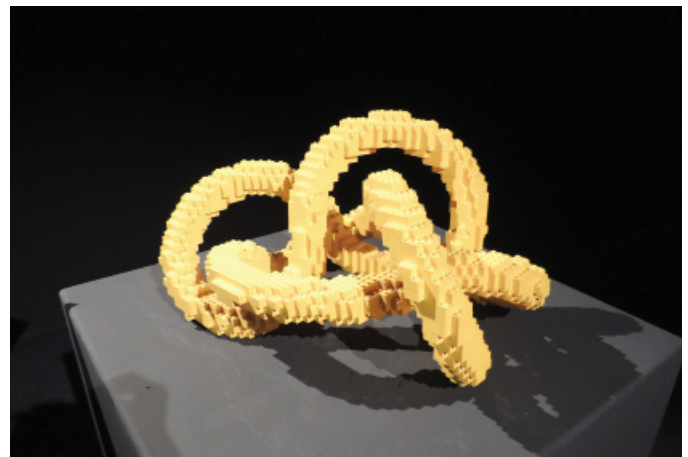


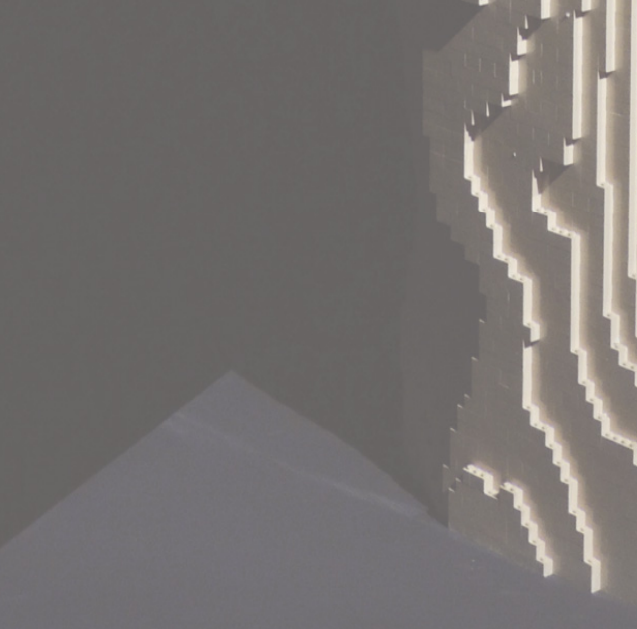
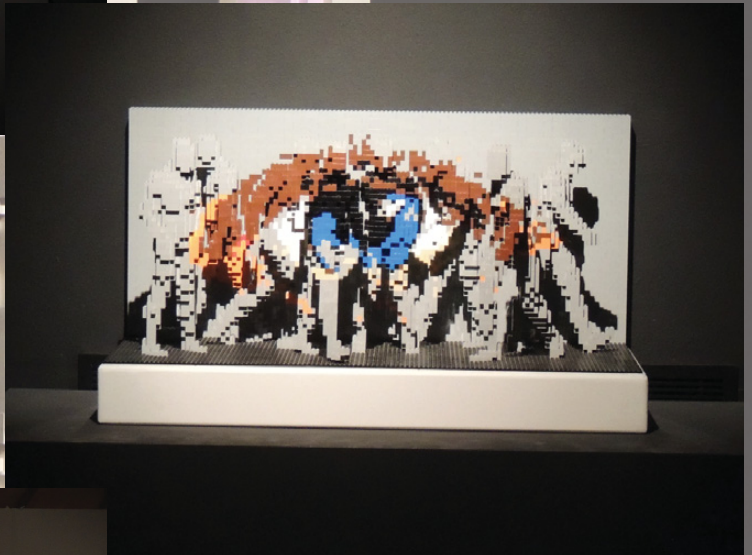


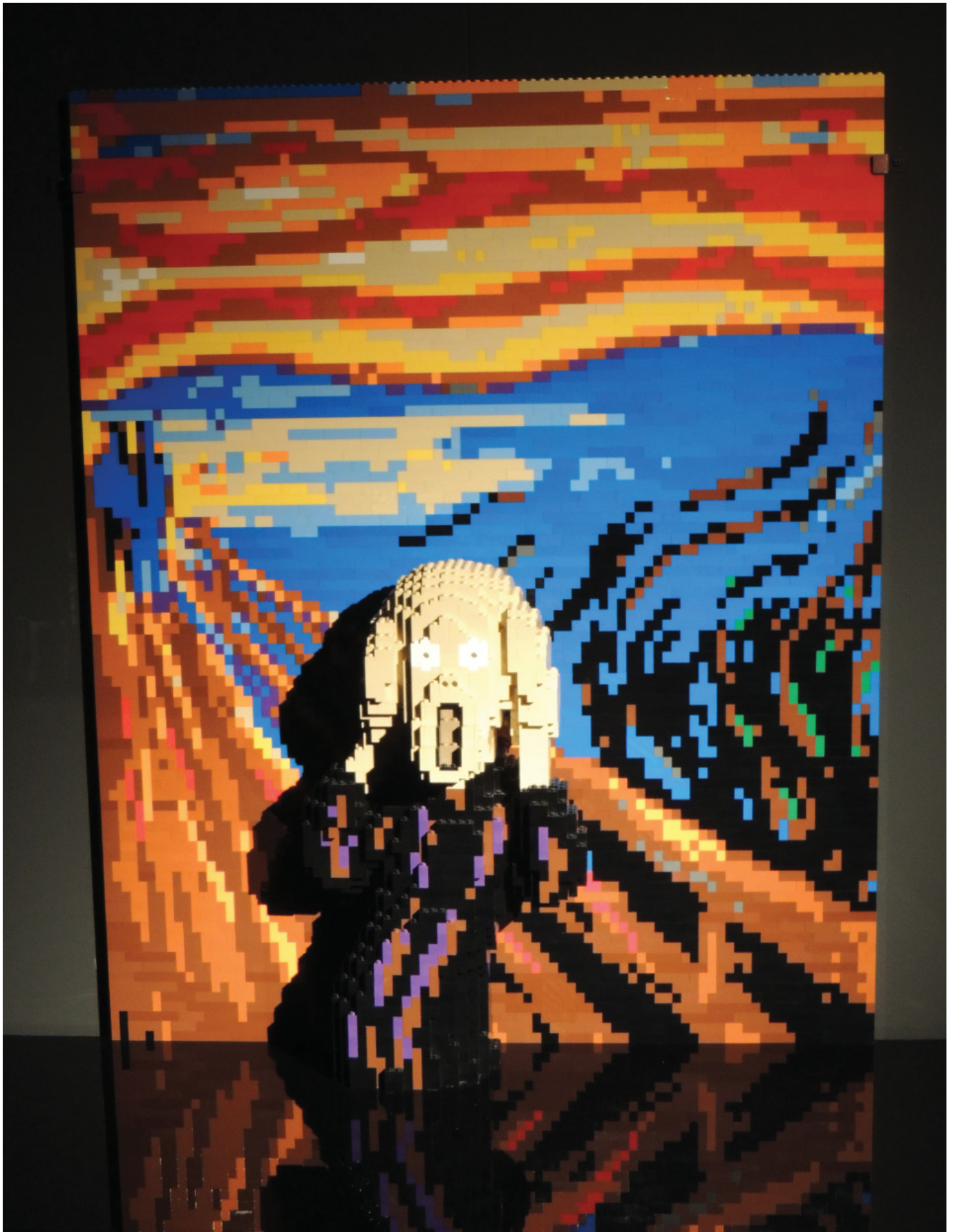
Just entering the exhibition we found, what in our opinion was, one of the best works you can come across in the exhibition: "the knot". It is a small knot made with 1240 bricks. The meaning of this work is that there are problems that seem to have no beginning or end, and that it's difficult to know where to start. From this starting point, we entered into a larger room where we found the famous sculptures reproducing human bodies in different positions, reproductions of works from the story of the art, and some nice original ideas expressed with bricks.

The environment is very well designed to focus your attention to the sculptures. There are lights shining on different works so as to capture the viewer's attention, whereas the rest of the corridors and rooms have dimmer lighting. We are not going to explain each sculpture, it is better that you browse the following pages and see what is exhibited. Instead, we'd like to mention some of our favourites: besides "the knot", we really liked "The scream", a reproduction of the painting of Munch, "The great wave of Kanagawa" of Hokusai, and originals from Sawaya like "The Swimmer" or "Untitled", showing the frustration of a man that exerted so much to progress forward, only to come back to the start.

There are not enough words to express what you will find there, the pictures are not enough to understand what Nathan Sawaya is expressing with his sculptures. Being there is a whole different experience, we can do no more than to encourage you to visit should it be on display near you, but we provide some pictures on the next pages as a sneak peek.







We would like to thank Proactiv for inviting us to the opening. #