

“Metal-Coated Boulders Make Minneapolis Look Extraterrestrial,” *Wired.com*,
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Artist Jim Hodges says of his installation, “I wanted the works to feel, and be, bigger than us.”
Photo: Ackerman + Gruber

Don't be fooled by the candy coating on these nonrolling stones: They'd flatten you like a cartoon coyote if they ever got moving.

Good thing the 45 tons of rock and steel are stuck firmly in place at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. The installation (called *Untitled*) is by artist Jim Hodges, who first selected four massive boulders from the woodlands of western Massachusetts. Hodges had the 400 million-year-old beasts hauled back to a foundry in New York, where he and his team cast the armor out of reflective stainless steel, then melded the plates to the granite before adding the pigment.

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The point of the quad-toned set is to make visitors feel insignificant: “It was important that the scale be large enough to dwarf a full-grown person,” Hodges says. But there’s also something joyful about the piece. When Hodges visited Rajasthan, India, he wondered about the significance of the brightly colored flags flying above the Hindu temples that dotted the countryside and asked his driver about them. “He said quite simply, ‘God loves color,’” says Hodges. “It stuck with me.” Whoa, that’s heavy.