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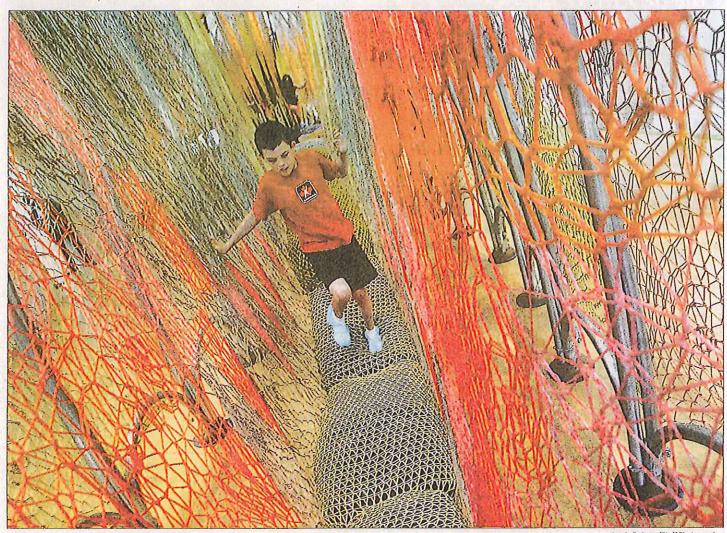
A gold pendant in "The Legacy of the Plumed Serpent" exhibition at the Dallas Museum of Art. See story about the show on Page 48.

Photo © The Trustees of the British Museum/Art

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Jacob Dashiell of Lewisville plays in the "Cuddle on the Tightrope (Kink)" giant crocheted installation at the Nasher Sculpture Center.

The Nasher Unleash your inner 10-year-in artist's susponder Crocheted sci

inner 10-year-old in artist's suspended, crocheted sculpture

anna feel like a kid again, instantly? Go spend 10 or 15 minutes climbing around in the "Cuddle on the Tightrope (Kink)" exhibit at the Nasher Sculpture Center. The installation, by Brazilian artist Ernesto Neto, resembles a

JOY'S JAUNTS



JOY TIPPING

colorful,
articulated
caterpillar
winding its
way through
the space.
"Kink" takes
up the entire
upstairs main
gallery of the
Nasher, and

you're not only invited, you're actively encouraged to touch, grab, step on and generally interact with the art, as with the golden balloons of Martin Creed's show last summer.

Neto is internationally known for his experiential artworks that use the crocheting techniques his mother and grandmother taught him in the early 1990s, although he didn't use them in his art for several years after that. Here, huge swaths of crochet, a framework of wood and aluminum. thousands of propylene balls, felt and rubber were used. The Dallas piece was created especially for the space at the Nasher, and the artist and his assistants took several days to put it together. He brought some of the crocheted panels with him, and some he created on-site.

Only a few people are allowed inside the structure at once, but if you visit on a weekday when the lines are



SEE videos of Nasher visitors exploring "Kink" and a timelapse look at its installation, dallasnews.com/entertainment

short or nonexistent, you'll probably get to linger awhile. You'll be given paper booties to wear while inside the installation. It takes a few steps to get your "sea legs," but you'll adjust quickly to the small, squishy balls and crisscrossing crochet beneath your toes.

You'll ascend several feet above the Nasher's floor, into a space that reminded me of being on a vast, fantastical ship — a feeling that intensified as I grabbed both sides of the "walls" and made a swinging, side-toside motion that had me imagining that I was rolling on waves. Ohmygosh, I'm a pirate on the open seas! I'm a fairy in a treehouse, surveying my kingdom! I'm 51, but all of a sudden I'm 10! Children will be enchanted, of course, but the adults I saw were just as awestruck as the kids they had in tow (children under 5 must be accompanied by a parent inside the sculpture).

If there's not a line of folks waiting behind you, it's especially fun to plop down in the pod mid-installation and just gaze out at the world through the interlocking ropes as you gently sway. If I'd had a good book and my iPod with me, they might have had to drag me out by my hair.

It takes only a few minutes to enjoy this installation, so you'll also have time to stroll the Nasher gardens and the concurrent so-creepy-it's-fabulous Erick Swenson exhibit. As the Nasher curators put it, the Dallas artist presents "fantastic vignettes of animals ensnared in strange, sometimes devastating circumstances, or quietly poetic scenes that evoke the beauty and tragedy of our nature, as well as our own human condition."

I was just glad that Swenson's creations weren't chasing me through "Kink" — but that would make an awesome action movie.

■ "Cuddle on the Tightrope (Kink)" and "Sightings: Erick Swenson" run through Sept. 9 at the Nasher, 2001 Flora St., Dallas. Free with general admission of \$10; discounts available. 214-242-5100. nashersculpturecenter.org.

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