

# TAKE AN ART WALK!

EXPLORE THE ART AROUND YOU

## Decoding the Tree of Life

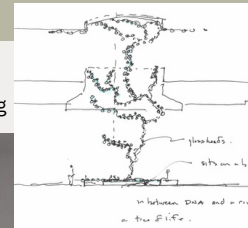


Ms. Lin is now an accomplished artist with sculpture in prestigious collections all over the world. The piece at the new Pavilion was commissioned especially for the space.

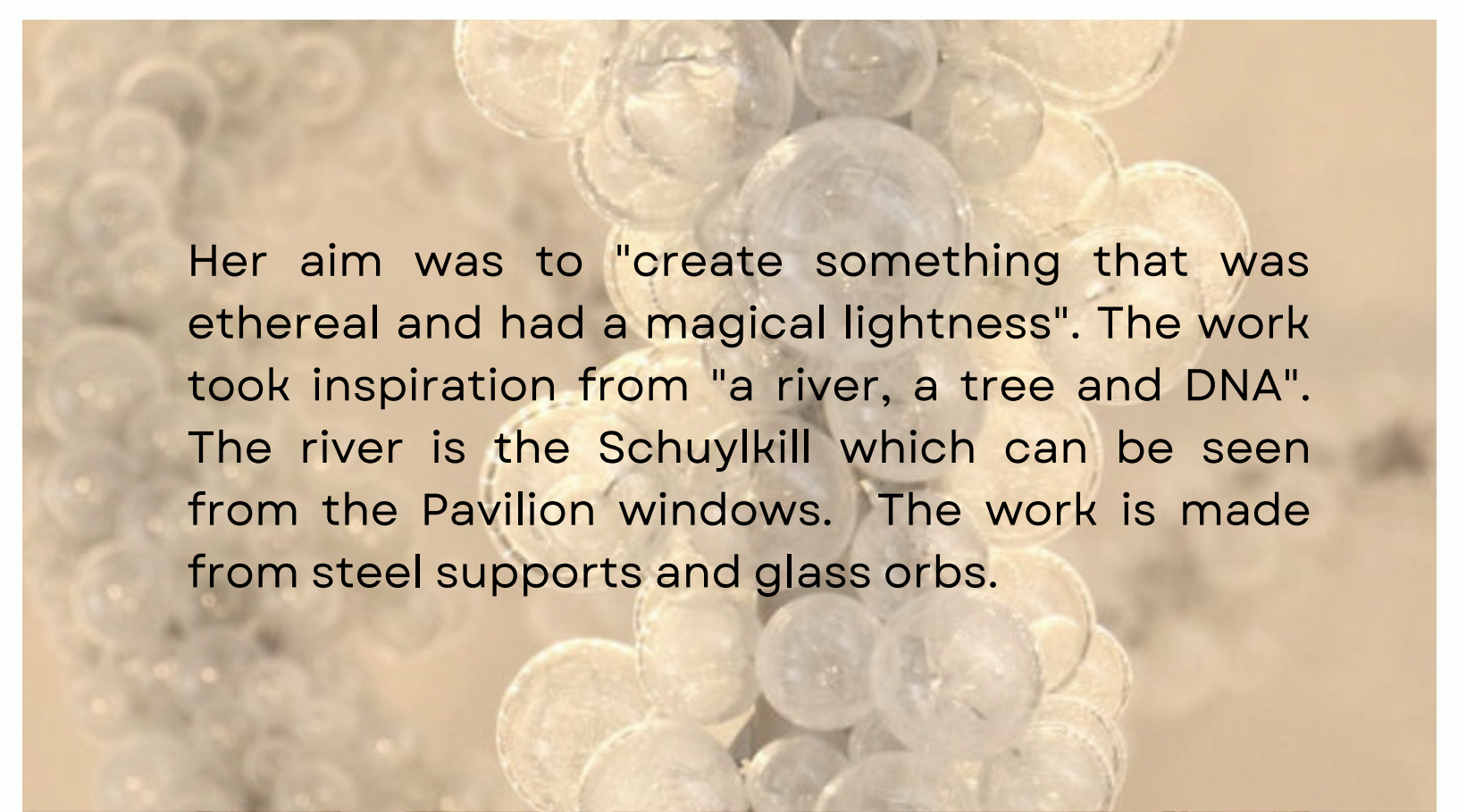
Her inspiration was the work that would be done in the building and the attachment the people have to nature and the human elements of science.

Maya Lin began her career in the controversy surrounding her winning entry for the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC. It was modern and minimalist and some did not think the artist or work was appropriate. But she said the work in the V shaped wall represented a wound that was healing. She also stated "I didn't want to make something that said, 'They've gone away for awhile'. I wanted something that would simply say 'They can never come back. They should be remembered'. It has since become a beloved memorial and is one of the most visited on the National Mall.


Preparatory drawing







Her aim was to "create something that was ethereal and had a magical lightness". The work took inspiration from "a river, a tree and DNA". The river is the Schuylkill which can be seen from the Pavilion windows. The work is made from steel supports and glass orbs.



In an interview about the work Ms. Lin also mentions the work has a resemblance to bodily forms. One can almost see the human circulatory system or nervous system in the work. By relating so many natural structures, the work does feel ethereal and grounded at the same time.

**This beautiful work of art is now part of Penn Medicine and the city of Philadelphia.**

**It is located on Pavilion One. It is a 4 minute walk from the Founders elevator.**