

## Artist Donald Robertson to give colorful touch to Royal Poinciana Plaza's Holiday Reveal



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Pop artist Donald Robertson is customizing the Royal Poinciana Plaza's 30-foot surfboard Christmas tree, which will be unveiled at 6 p.m. Friday. Robertson's works will also be on display at the plaza through Jan. 2. [Courtesy of HL Group]

**By Olivia Feldman Daily News Staff Writer**

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In pop artist Donald Robertson's world, sayings around the holidays include "Merry Kissmas" and "Happy HanukHug."

These brightly colored themes, along with plenty of his signature painted lips, will be present at the Royal Poinciana Plaza's Holiday Reveal, happening at 6 p.m. Friday.

Also known as "Drawbertson," Robertson is putting his spin on the plaza's signature 30-foot Christmas tree made out of 52 surfboards, which will be wrapped in a rainbow of painted lips. The tree will complement a surfboard menorah with the same theme. Several of Robertson's creations will also be on display throughout the plaza.

In three words, Los Angeles resident Robertson describes his style as "tongue-in-cheek."

"I take things that are considered classic or high-end and then make fun of or have fun with them," Robertson said.

In addition to a tree lighting at 6:30 p.m., the Holiday Reveal will have sweet treats, a Kissing Surf Shack and a visit from Fashion Santa, who will ride in on a brand new Royal Moke car.

"There are surprises; I know it's gonna be good," Robertson said.

Robertson, a frequent visitor to Palm Beach, is known for his whimsical pop art, painting everything from Frankenstein's monster to Hermès Birkin bags. "Vanity Fair" has called Robertson "the Andy Warhol of Instagram," and he has reached more than 206,000 followers since starting an account on the social media site in 2012. Among his posts are cartoons of such celebrities as Anna Wintour, Karl Lagerfeld and Kanye West.

It was on a March trip to Palm Beach while signing copies of his monograph "Donald: The Book," where he discovered the Royal Poinciana Plaza's recent renovations and visited many of its businesses, including Sant Ambroeus, his favorite restaurant and in his words "the most New York place on the planet," and Toojay's Gourmet Deli. He will be signing more copies of his book at Assouline, 340 Royal Poinciana Way, from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Friday.

Robertson's works, as well as the Christmas tree and menorah, will be on display through Jan. 2. For more information on the Holiday Reveal, call 440-5441.