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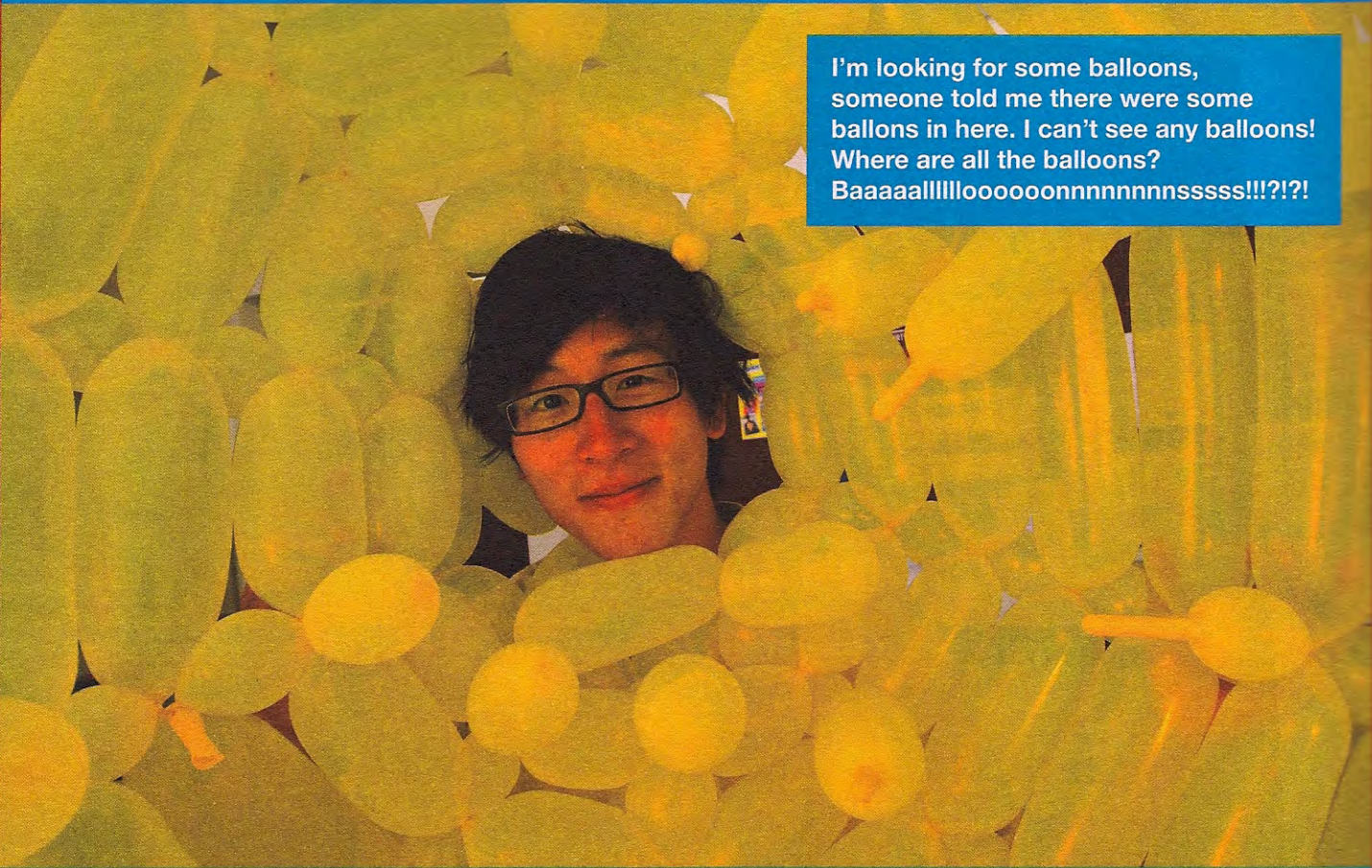
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I'm looking for some balloons,
someone told me there were some
ballons in here. I can't see any balloons!
Where are all the balloons?
Baaaaaallllllloooooonnnnnnsssss!!!?!?!

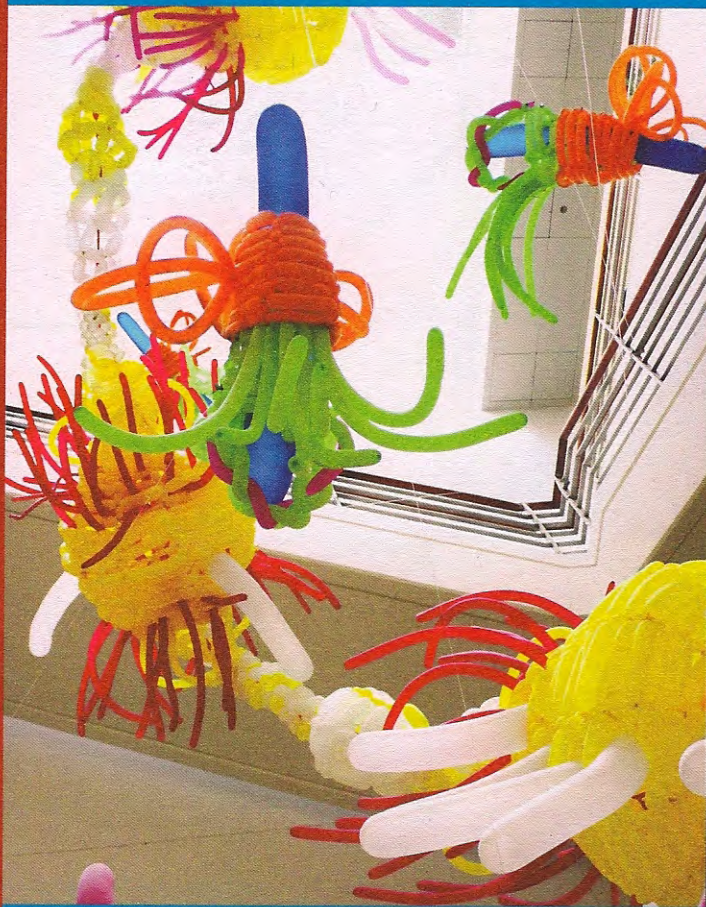
WILLY
CHYR

Take a scientist.
Take a few balloons.
Mix it all together and
what do you get?

Willy Chyr.

Who is he?

A wonderful artist who makes
incredible balloon installations
inspired by science.



Anorak: Hello Willy!

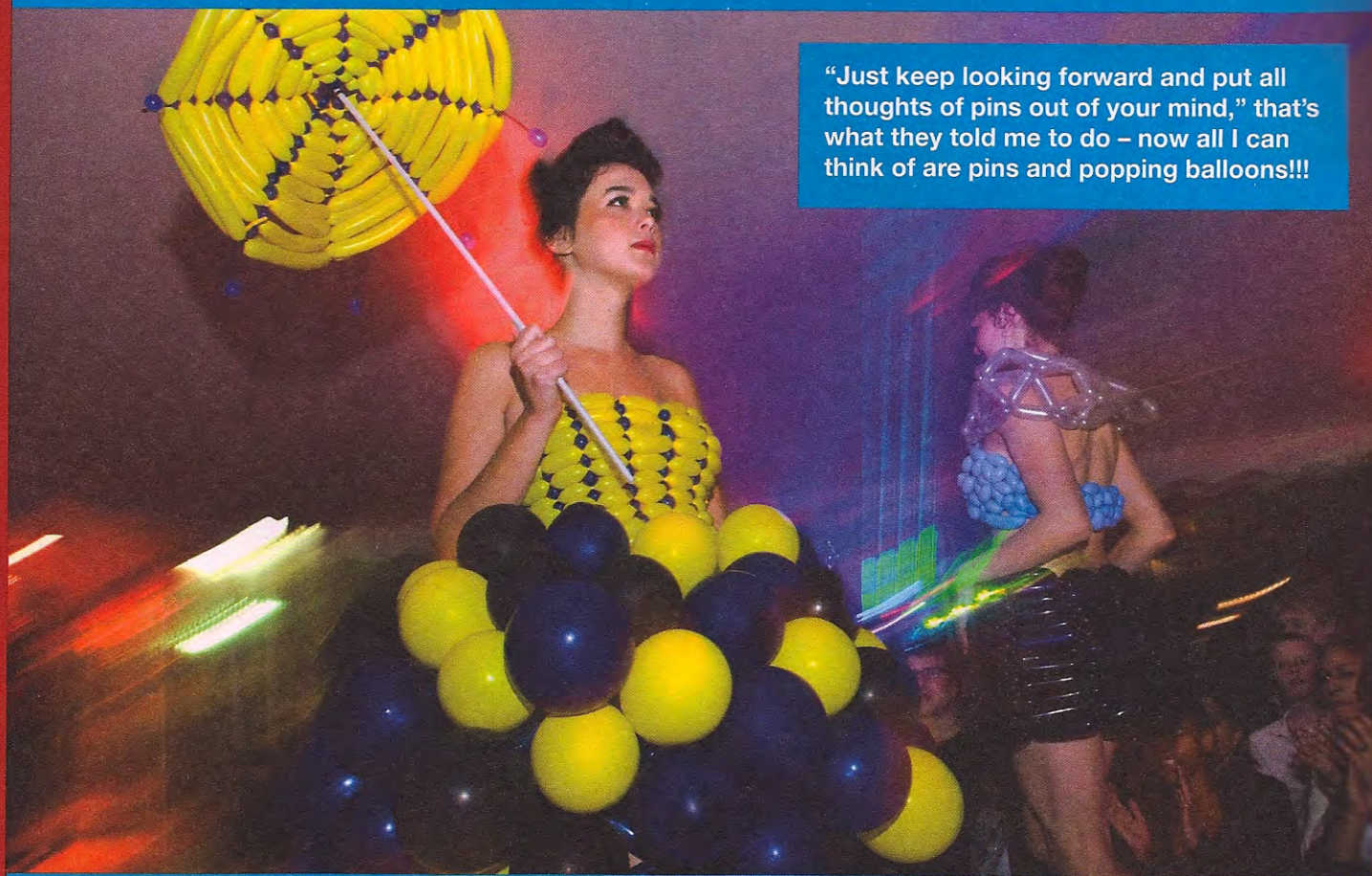
Willy: Hello Anorak!

Anorak: What has been your favourite balloon installation so far?

Willy: The installation I created for LabFest! in Millennium Park is definitely my favourite so far, because it brought together all the elements I'm interested in: art, science, and education, in an amazing setting right in the middle of downtown Chicago. In many ways, it was the perfect installation for my work. I really like the piece Black and White I

installed in Omaha. I created it this past May, when I was nearing the end of my artist residency at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. I had spent several weeks exploring new structures and colour schemes, as I felt I had been making the same sculpture over and over again, and that installation was a real breakthrough for me.

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"Just keep looking forward and put all thoughts of pins out of your mind," that's what they told me to do – now all I can think of are pins and popping balloons!!!

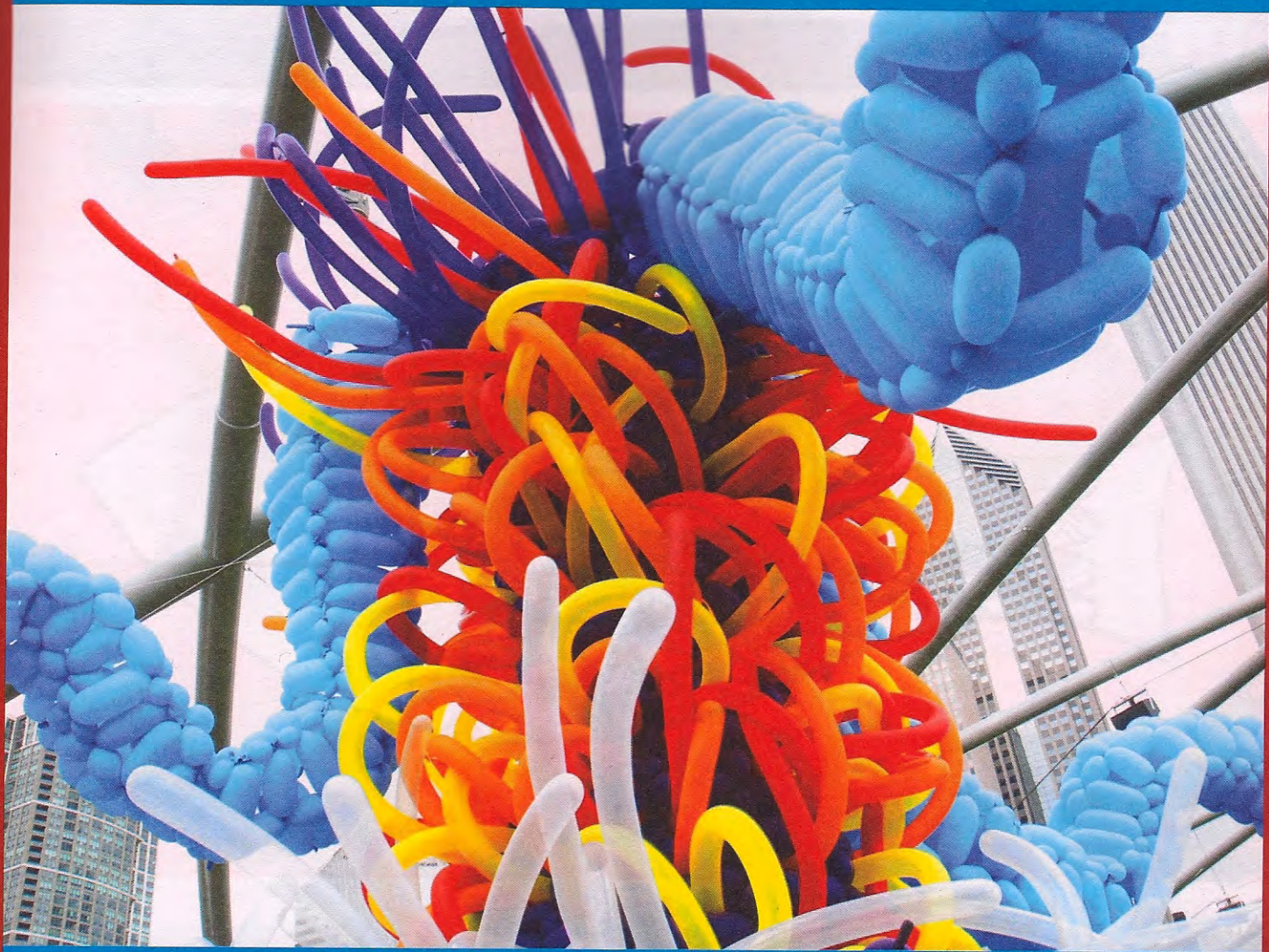
Anorak: What has been the most challenging one?

Willy: The balloon fashion show was by far the most challenging exhibit I've done. The balloons used for the dresses are much thinner than the ones normally used for large sculptures or balloon animals, so they stay inflated for only about two days, which meant that was all the time I had to make the dresses, and I had to build them right before the show. Back then, each dress would take me about five hours to make, and I had signed on to create six dresses for the show,

so I basically stayed up for 40 hours straight making those dresses. Then when the show finally happened, the models were on the catwalk for only a couple of minutes. Not exactly an experience I'm looking to repeat, but I'm really proud of the final result and all the work was definitely worth it.

Anorak: Do you release the balloons once your installation is over?

Willy: The balloons are filled with regular air, and not helium, so they can't get released into the air. By the end of an installation



(usually four or five weeks), the balloons will have deflated significantly, and the sculpture is usually only a third of its original size, or less.

Anorak: Describe a happy episode of your childhood.

Willy: I spent a good part of my childhood living in Taiwan, and I remember when I was around seven or eight, my grandmother took me and my sister to visit my great-grandmother in the countryside. I had always been in cities before that, so to me,

it was awesome to have all this space to run around in. I don't remember too much, but I do recall just having a really great time playing with my cousins and my sister.

Thank you Willy! We hope you come over to London soon for a balloon-tastic exhibition!

If you would like to get inspired by Willy's creations, check out his website www.willychyr.com

