APTOS — The disembodied, rusted remains of a Volkswagen Beetle have been given new life as a dragonfly at the sculpture walk at Cabrillo College’s new art complex.

The sculpture, titled “Reincarnation,” joined 10 others on the concrete pedestals that line the sprawling open space between the art buildings. After two years, new artwork will likely replace them.

The outdoor artwork came from the large-scale sculpture class, part of Cabrillo’s arts department’s summer workshops, a series of two-week intensive classes that includes portrait drawing, painting and photography.

“The sculptures are a really nice finishing touch for the complex,” Cabrillo spokeswoman Jana Marcus said.

Jeff “Doctor Wasabi” Caplan, who created “Reincarnation,” said he wanted to show the effects of automobiles on the environment.

Art instructor Jamie Abbot, an accomplished local sculptor in his own right, said he told the artists in the large-scale sculpture class to consider the landscape, buildings and surrounding area when designing their sculptures, which he called a “site-specific” approach to art.

“This is evident in “Saturday Night,” a sculpture created by Josie Espinosa that depicts a drummer and a saxophone player. The sculpture is made of wire mesh, metal and an old guitar case. Espinosa said she was inspired by music classes that took place in a nearby
classes that took place in a nearby classroom as she planned her sculpture.

She added that she learned several new skills while making her piece, including using a laser cutter and welding.

“The class was great,” Espinosa said. “I’m a woman and this is considered a man’s class.”

Artists largely used materials that were discarded by others, and although most were fashioned from metal, glass and wood, anything could have been used to complete the sculptures, Abbott said.

Alan Helfen, who said he came to the class with little experience in art but had a long-standing desire to try his hand in sculpture, used several pieces of scrap metal to create “Improv 1,” a piece at once industrial and organic, with the stark lines of a machine with tendrils reaching into the sky.

“I’m incredibly satisfied,” he said of his sculpture.

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The reception for the new sculpture walk will take place from 4-6 p.m. in art rooms 2014, 2015, 2020, and outside on the sculpture walk in front of the music recital hall and Crocker Theater. For information, visit www.cabrilloarts.org.