



Questions & Answers about "Shattered Expressions." 12/15/09

What is Shattered Expressions? A 10' by 40' three-dimensional piece of public art by local artist Tommy Morgan

What does it mean? The Artist Tommy Morgan talks about Shattered Expressions in the following way: "My definition of art is to provoke or convey emotions. In 'Shattered Expressions' I am trying to capture the essential human expressions of joy, and rage and sorrow. The human face conveys all these emotions: Joy comes from sorrow; sorrow goes into rage and back again to joy. As human beings, we cannot have one of these emotions without having all the others. 'Shattered Expressions' is just raw emotion."

How is it being funded? There are four cash investors and two in-kind investors. Dollars are being provided by Tim Belden (330- 209-9242), Bob Timken(330- 280-2770), the Canton Development Partnership (Mike Gill: 330-458-2090)and ArtsinStark (Robb Hankins 330-453-1075). In-kind labor, materials and installation by Coon Caulking & Restoration (Steve Coon 330-353-0878) and by Roricks, Inc. (Ric Rorick 330-497-6888). The total cash and in-kind budget is about \$35,000.

How does public art get created for the Canton Arts District? Right now, we operate on a case-by-case basis, as ideas come up, with modest resources we gather from mostly private sources. All designs for public art projects must be submitted for approval to the Architectural Review Board at the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Review Board sometimes asks outside arts professionals to provide additional feedback. In the future, we hope to get formal public arts ordinances passed by city and county governments here, so that we would have both a full time public arts administrator on staff, and a formal public art process.

How does it fit into the plan for the Canton Arts District? Through an ongoing partnership with the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce (its Canton Development Partnership and its Special Improvement District), ArtsinStark has spent the last four years helping create the Canton Arts District. In 2005, we began with these three strategies for revitalizing downtown: 1) live music, 2) art galleries and studios, and 3) public art. In the last four years, we've gone from 5 pieces of public art to 35 pieces, so we're definitely making progress. We are using public art in the Canton Art District to: 1) attract attention, 2) create discussion, and 3) support local artists.

What is the history of the public art "push" over the last four years? In 2005, we began small, transforming old cement garbage containers into works of art. The project was called "Garbage to Glory" --- 24 painted and sculpted garbage cans. Next, the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and private sponsors commissioned a 10-foot-tall, 50-foot-long mural made out of six 800-pound steel panels called "Gaia's Hope." Local artist Joseph Close designed it. The mural told the history of the world, and was installed on the wall of the parking deck on Court Avenue between Second and Third Streets NW.

Canton City Council President Allen Schulman got us our next public art piece "Adroit Juggler" by Columbus artist Max Worthington. It is an abstract aluminum sculpture of a one armed juggler and sits in the middle of Market Avenue on the corner of Tuscarawas.

Next, local artist Patrick Buckohr began "Critters," a series of eight 12-foot-tall animals made out of recycled truck wheels donated by Slesnick Structural Steel. We didn't have enough money to keep all eight "Critters" downtown, but thanks to some generous donors, today "Yellow Duckie," "Giraffe," "Fish," and "Gorilla" remain on various street corners where kids love to climb them.

After that, local artist Tommy Morgan went out and got the funding to paint two murals, both are on Court Avenue between Third and Fourth Streets NW. The first is "Mother of Invention" on the side of Primo's restaurant. The second is "Homage sans DaVinci" on the back of the Kolp Real Estate building.

During the summer of 2009, hundreds of kids across Stark County participated in water conservation workshops sponsored by the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation which culminated in the unveiling of the "Waterless Aquarium" at the First Friday celebration in September 2009. More than 100 fish made out of recycled materials --- big ones created by professional artists, and small ones fabricated by kids. Professional artists Patrick Buckohr ("Whale"), Joseph Close ("Lobster"), and Paul Werner ("School of Fish") made three big sculptures out of recycled materials donated by AEP (American Electric Power), and they have become part of an ever-growing public art collection in the Canton Arts District. Today that collection totals 35 plus works --- with four more planned for the next nine months: "Shattered Expressions" by Tommy Morgan, "Downtown Cats" by Vicki Boatright, "Shutterbug" by PR Miller, and "The Sky is the Limit" by Joseph Close.

In the summer of 2009, ArtsinStark unveiled the idea for "The Amazing Football Collection" --- more than a dozen provocative sculptures that would both stop traffic in downtown Canton, and remind everyone that professional football in America began right here. Most important of all, "The Amazing Football Collection" would attract thousands of visitors and tourists.