

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Agenda

January 5, 2021

Town Council Chambers 9:00 a.m.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission is to promote and enhance the natural beauty of the mountain landscape by providing input and advice to the Blowing Rock Staff and Town Council to help preserve and protect publicly maintained spaces.

- Approve December 8, 2020 Minutes –
  
- Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection –
  
- Tree City USA –
  
- Public Art Request 2020-1 (Making the Current Sculpture Near Chetola Permanent) –
  
- Other Business –

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Minutes

December 8, 2020

Members Present: Melissa Pickett, Curt Andrews, Bo Henderson, Carol Knapp, & Chris Wetmore

Staff Present: Jennifer Brown, Cory Cathcart, & Shane Fox

Begin: 9:03 a.m.

End: 10:20 a.m.

**November Minutes Approval** – Mr. Andrews made a motion to approve the June minutes. Mr. Henderson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

**Budget Update** – Mrs. Brown reported that revenue collected to date is \$34,626, which leaves approximately \$2,500 to be collected to meet budget projections. Expenditures to date are \$5,978.47 which include the cost of mailing the donation appeal letters, the Post Office Box rental, contracted labor to decorate the blue spruce in front of Town Hall for Christmas, and a small water truck repair.

**Tree City USA Follow-up** – Mrs. Pickett stated that she had presented to Town Council during the November Town Council meeting and had received approval to proceed with the process to apply to become a Tree City USA town. She also reported that with the help of Kevin Rothrock, she had presented a draft ordinance to Planning Board in November naming BRAAC as the public Tree Board for the Town. This ordinance gives guidelines for tree care, plantings, and maintenance on Town property. Planning Board approved the draft ordinance and Town Council will vote during December's Town Council meeting. Upon approval, the plan will be for Mrs. Pickett to submit the application to Tree City USA by month's end.

**Sculpture on Main Street** – Mrs. Pickett was approached by Mr. Kent Tarbutton from Chetola Resort and Spa requesting that the sculpture on Main Street fronting Chetola, the installation of which had previously been approved for one year, to remain in place until the next Sculpture Walk event, as this year's event had been cancelled due to COVID19 restrictions. Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve. Mr. Andrews seconded, and the vote was unanimously approved.

**History Walk** – Mrs. Pickett asked Mr. Fox if the proposed History Walk from the Village Foundation and the Historical Society was being presented to Town Council during the December meeting. Mr. Fox replied that he had received a request from Tom O'Brian, representing the Historical Society, to present the concept to Town Council during the December Town Council meeting. Mr. Fox felt that Mr. O'Brian is looking for conceptual approval before they proceed with detailed planning for the project.

**Cone Road Nature Park Update** – Mr. Fox reported that it had been suggested to have Mr. Gupton present the idea of turning the current lay down yard on Cone Road into a park during the Town Council retreat in January. Mr. Andrews expressed his hopes for Mr. Gupton to present to Town Council the detailed cost analyses that were asked of him during the previous monthly BRAAC meeting, including costs and benefits to taxpayers in general and Mayview neighbors, including those abutting the lot, in particular as well as the development, maintenance, and upkeep costs to taxpayers once the park is built. He further voiced his concerns that this proposed nature or pocket park was intentionally or unintentionally being positioned as a refuge from tourists or a "secret park" that would be of greatest

value to Mayview residents more than it would be for townspeople at large or, for that matter, tourists. Mr. Henderson stated that the Mayview Homeowners Association would not be in favor of supporting this park if it were not open/visible to everyone. He added that he will have conversations with members reiterating that point and if it is not a public park the Association would not support it financially.

**Christmas Decorating** – Mrs. Brown informed the commission that some people had expressed their disfavor of the metal Christmas trees in Memorial Park. She and Mr. Cathcart have discussed options short of decorating and harming living, established trees. One viable plan is to plant or install and decorate large potted evergreen trees. These could be planted later in any public park for the Arbor Day celebration, a plan that coincides nicely with Tree City USA obligations. Mr. Cathcart noted that a concern to consider would be tearing up the turf to move them in and out as the ground may be frozen. A solution would be to plant evergreens in the front of Memorial Park where no turf would be torn. Mr. Wetmore reported that as a former nursery owner and operator, he has azaleas and conifers that he would like to donate to the Town that might go nicely with this project. Mr. Wetmore said that as a past visitor, he knows that people visit Blowing Rock to see plants, trees, and vegetation that are real, and they cannot see where they live. Mr. Henderson agreed with Mr. Wetmore and added that the conifers that are decorated in front of Town Hall and Broyhill Lake look great.

**Bass Lake Project Update** – Mr. Fox reviewed the timeline of the sidewalk to Bass Lake project. NCDOT had awarded the contract to Country Boy Landscaping in September yet they are yet to start the project. After Town staff consulted with legal counsel and met with NCDOT and Country Boy Landscaping, NCDOT allowed Country Boy Landscaping to subcontract the project to Greene Construction, Inc. of Boone, and Padco Excavating of Jefferson to complete the project. Mr. Fox added that Greene Construction had begun to bring equipment to Blowing Rock today for the project. Mr. Wetmore asked if the Town could be compensated for its time and energy. Mr. Fox replied that he was not certain and is looking into options such as credit on monies owed.

**Village Foundation Meeting Update** – Mrs. Pickett reported that for some time she has tried to coordinate a meeting with the Village Foundation, BRAAC, and Mr. Fox. Several proposed dates were either rejected or received no response. Mr. Andrews made a motion that any such meeting needed to occur during a regularly scheduled monthly public BRAAC meeting. Mr. Henderson seconded, and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

# Town of Blowing Rock

## Public Art Application

### Applicant Information

Contact Name: **Kent Tarbutton**

Contact Address: **Chetola Resort Box 17, Blowing Rock, NC 28605**

Contact Phone Number: **828.264.0986**

Contact Email Address: **kentt@chetola.com**

### Artwork Information

Title of Artwork: "**Share the Whirled**" - **Permanent Installation**

Artist Contact (Please attach bio if available)

Name: **Mike Roig**

Address: 100 Hillsboro Road, Carrboro, NC 27510

Phone Number: 919.929.3535

Email Address: **mroig@mindspring.com**

Artwork Type: Public Art **Sculpture**

Dimensions: 5' upper (kinetic) diameter. Base 27" x 33" x 13' height

Media: *Recycled structural steel in the base (i-beams and 1/4 inch wall rectangular tubing), repurposed wheel hub and bearings supporting the kinetic element which is made from stainless steel.*

Acknowledgment plaque Y N -

Desired Location: **Chetola Property**

Please attach the following documentation to the application:

1. Photographs and drawings which fully illustrate the proposed artwork

*Exhibit A*

2. Proposed location map

*Exhibit B*

3. Proposed site plan

*Exhibit C*

4. Photos of the proposed site

*Exhibit D*

5. Proposed landscape plan NA

6. Proposed lighting plan if applicable NA

7. Description of site preparation including grading, landscaping, seating, lighting, 'signage, etc.

*Exhibit E*

8. Any proposed budget items that will not be funded by the project itself.

NA

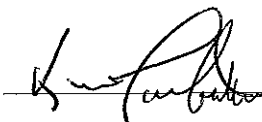
9. Proposal to maintain the art project and any landscaping, lighting, signage, etc. for the life of the proposed art piece

*Exhibit E*

**Exclusion of Liability:**

The Town of Blowing Rock shall not be held liable to any parties, including but not limited to artists or donors for any losses, claims, injuries or damages from theft, damage, vandalism, or bodily injury arising out of or in any way related to a public art project. The Town will require that all donors or artists sign a waiver and release which evidences this understanding and agreement.

I have read the Exclusion of Liability above and agree to the terms.

Signature 

Date 

1/5/2020
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EXHIBIT A

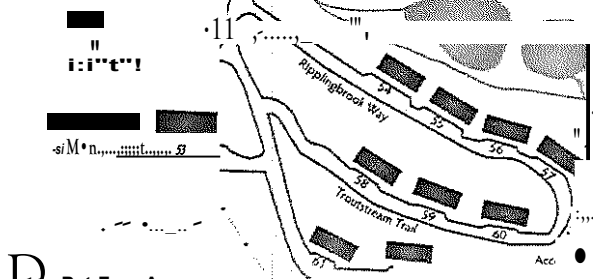
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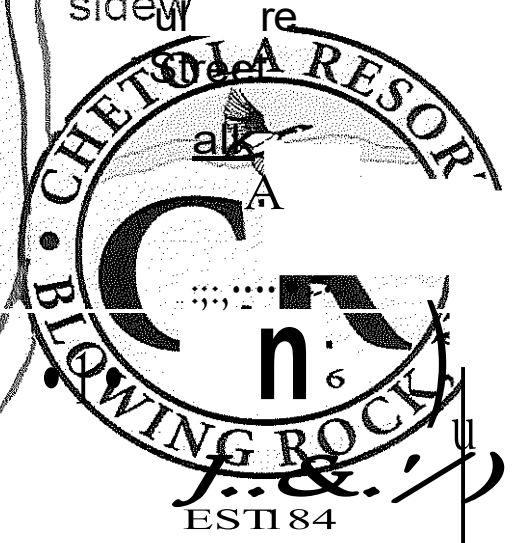
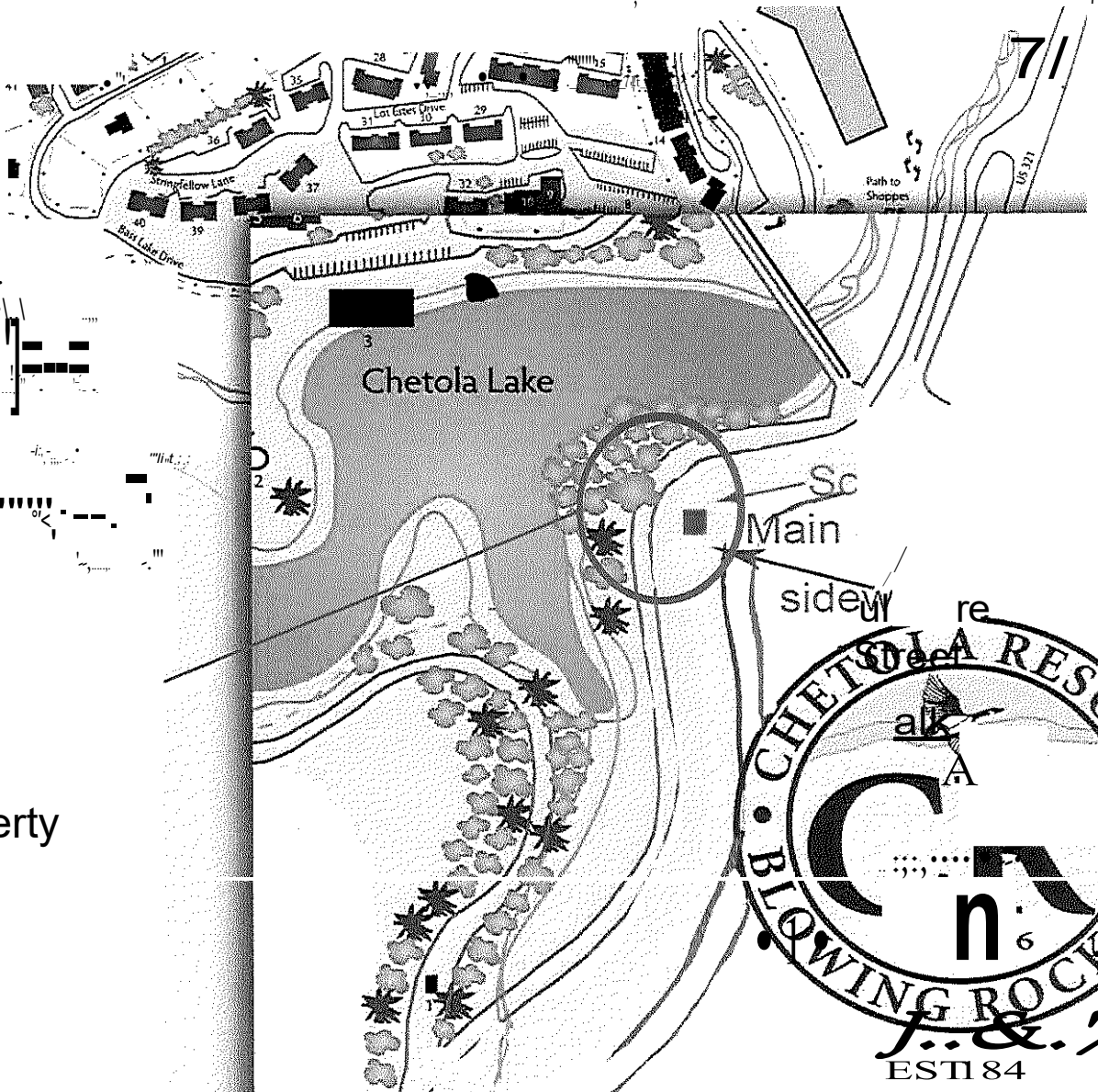
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Pet-Free Area Timeshares

Chetola Property





Chetola Lake



Suggested Sculpture Placement



Main Street

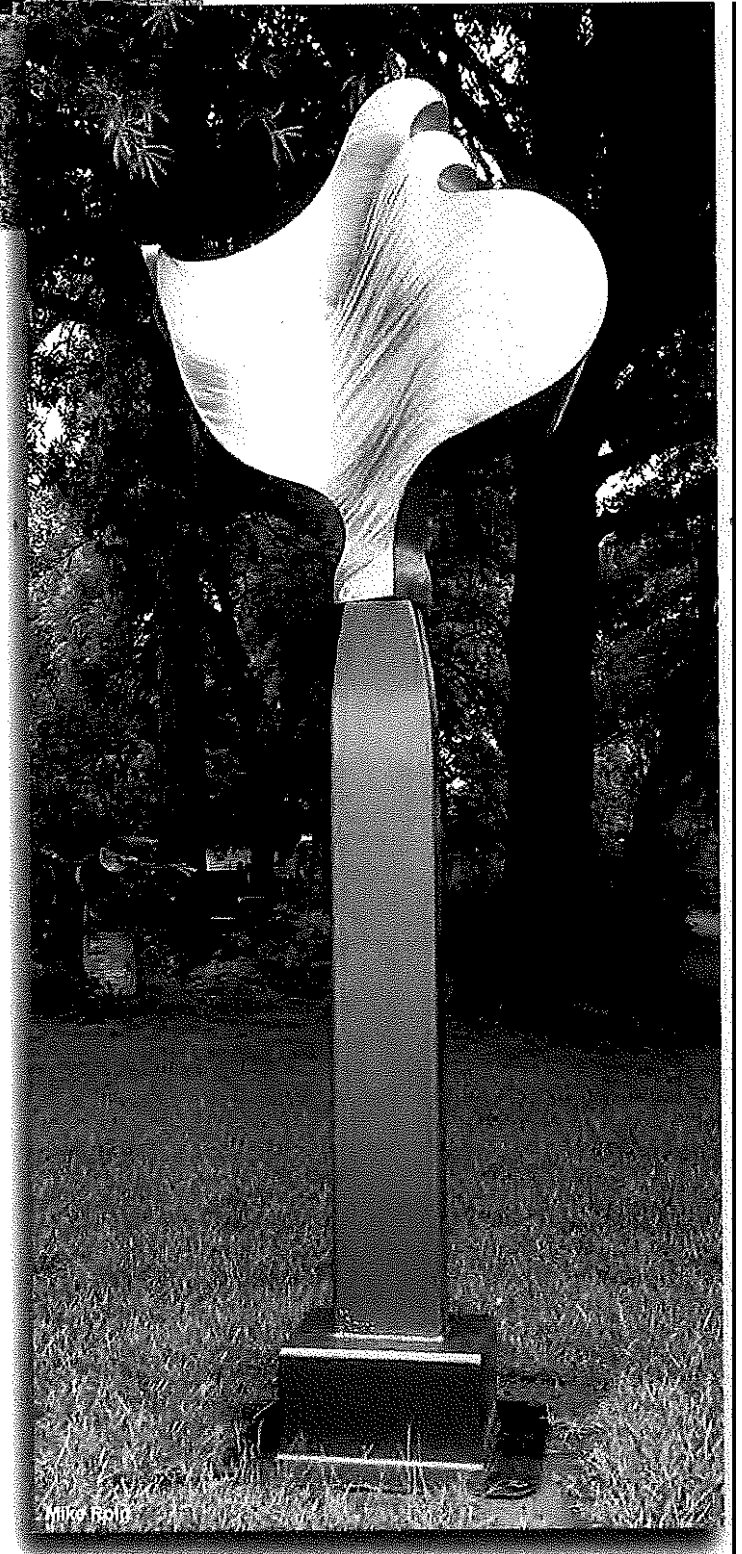
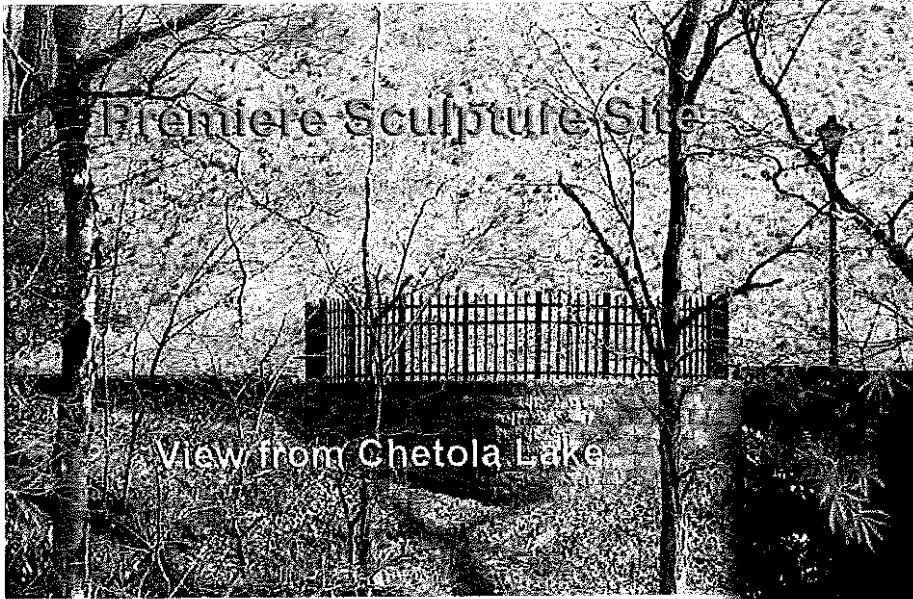




**Proposed Engineered Sculpture-**  
Kinetic - revolves on base  
5' Diameter rotation x 13' Height  
Stainless steel anchors  
Guaranteed Maintenance by Mike Roig- Sculptor

Chetola Resort





## Exhibit E

"Share My Whirled" Public Art Sculpture- \*on loan until next Sculpture Walk at Chetola

Preparation of site will be the responsibility of Art Consultant and Chetola.

Sculpture Components: Recycled sculptural steel in the base. IBEAMS and 1/4" wall rectangular tubing, repurposed wheel hub and stainless bearings supporting the "kinetic" Element which is fabricated form Stainless Steel.

Manner of Attachment: (4) 5/8" stainless steel (rust proof) wedge anchors secured by drilling and epoxy.

Level with stainless steel shims. These "best practices" are utilized by the professional sculptor and professional installers consistent with exterior grade code compliance.

Sculpture Footprint: The base measures 27" x 33 1/4". The low profile does not increase trip hazard in public area.

Sculpture Provenance: Sculpture was previously shown in Raleigh, NC Public Park and Town of Knoxville-(Percent for Art Program).

**Special Request: During removal, we request the TOWN assist in traffic monitoring stop/detour (south bound traffic) for Main street adjacent to the sculpture site.**

Section of R.O.W designated for small boom truck-1/2 sidewalk, 1/2 main street

Time allotment- 45 minutes to 1 hour

Safety cone placement

Flagman may be needed

*\*The Sculptor and his team promise to maintain the sculpture until removal.*

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Summa Cum Laude, University of Maryland, 1985, Major in Studio Art; Concentrations in drawing, sculpture and printmaking

## PUBLIC SCULPTURE

I have been fortunate in recent years to have this section of my resume take prominence. To see images of many of these sculptures go to the Public Sculpture link.

City of Mebane -Winged, Permanent Collection, Mebane, NC. 2017.

City of High Point - Beautiful Whirled, Chalice, and Passionatus, Permanent Collection, High Point,

NC. 2017.

Brenau University- Luminary 830, Permanent Collection, Gainesville, Ga. 2017

Georgia Tech - Watchtower, Arranged by ConsultArt, Inc. Atlanta, Georgia. 2017.

Rex Hospital - *Eurythmy*, Arranged by The Mahler Fine Art, Raleigh, NC. 2017.

Harford Community College - *Beta Wave*, Permanent Collection, Bel Air, Md. 2016

City of Statesville - *Top of the Whirled*, Inaugural Sculpture for downtown sculpture park,

Statesville, NC, 2016.

Holocaust Speakers Bureau - *Remember*, Holocaust Memorial at Maplewood Cemetery, Durham, NC

2015

Hickory Chamber of Commerce - *Two Whir/eds Two*, Hickory, NC 2015

Durham County- *Twist of Fate*, Durham, NC 2015

Hilton of Hickory- *Odyssey Redux*, Hickory, NC 2015

Caldwell Arts Council-Air *Waves*, Broyhill Walking Park, Lenoir, NC 2015

Caldwell Arts Council-*Aquamarine*, Purchase Award at Sculpture Celebratio , Lenoir, NC 2015

Alamance Arts Council - *Moby*, Purchase Award from Willow Walk Sculpture exhibition, Graham, NC

2014

City ofHickory-Zahra's*Whirled*, Zahra Baker Park, Hickory, NC 2014

Arbor Acres Retirement Community- *Cloud Lasso*, Winston Salem, NC 2013

North Carolina Zoological Park- *Otters in the Mist*, Asheboro, NC 2013

North Carolina Zoological Park- *Murmuration*, Asheboro, NC 2013

University of Kansas Hospital - *Triune*, Kansas City, Kansas 2012

City of Knoxville - *Flow Mojo*, Knoxville, Tn. 2010

City of Kingsport- *The Answer, My Friend*, Kingsport, Tn. 2010

The Community Church of Chapel Hill - *Who has Seen the Wind*, Chapel Hill, NC, 2009.

City of Kingsport- *Yo-Yo's Muse*, Purchased for permanent, public installation, Kingsport, Tn, 2007.

City of Raleigh - *Glimpses of the Promised Land*, sculpture commissioned for the City

by the Raleigh Arts Commission, Chavis Park, Raleigh, NC, 2006.

City of Charlottesville - *Whirled Peace*, sculpture purchased by the city for permanent,

public installation, Charlottesville, Va. 2005.

Onandaga Community College - *Here Comes the Sun* and *Whirled Peace, Improved*,

sculptures purchased for the permanent collection at the campus, Syracuse, NY, 2005.

## SELECTED SHOWINGS

I have cultivated a regular cycle of shows that I participate in annually. These include:  
Sculpture Exhibitions Sponsored by the Chapel Hill Arts Commision, Chapel Hill, NC  
Participation since 2000

Sculpture Visions, 2016-2018 (extended installation) "Ne;;Jed"  
Sculpture Visions, 2013-2015 (extended installation) "Beautiful Whirled"  
Sculpture Visions, 2013-2014 "Iw,, WhirledsT\\lo"  
Sculpture Visions, 2011-2012 "The VVatchtIJWer"  
Sculpture Visions, 2010-2011 "Oculaire"  
Sculpture Visions, 2008-2010 (extended installation) "ClomU,asso"  
Summer Select, 2002 "Contraposto"  
Merit Award, 2001 "Out to Sea," 2nd Annual Sculpture on the  
Green  
Summer Select, 2001 "Out to Sea"  
Merit Award, 2000 "Generator No. 1," Sculpture on the Green

Sculpture Celebration, The Caldwell Arts Council, Lenoir, NC  
Participation since 1996

3d Place Award, 2017, The Wind Blows Where It Will  
4th Place Award, 2012, *Mirthology*,  
Norma Suddreth Merit Award, 2009 "The An;;wgr,Jlyfriend", and "):lypnotica"  
Best in Show, 2005 "Airt;;\_c,itar"  
Purchase Award, 2004 "Étude"  
Patron's Purchase Award, 2003 "}'ormi,Jlora»  
Judge's Merit Award, 2002 "Inner Whirled"  
Judge's Merit Award, 2000 "JunJngfo;:l(  
Patron's Purchase Award, 1997 "Dancing Altar"  
Michaux-Sturgis Award, 1996 "Raven Runes"  
Patron's Purchase Award, 1996 "Double Helix Fountain"

Sculpture In The Garden, The North Carolina Botanical Garden, Chapel Hill, NC  
Participation since 1997

Merit Award, 2007 "Atmospherics 1"  
Best In Show, 2006 "Skylines"  
First Place, 2005 "TheVVatchtower"  
First Place, 2004 "Ysi,'{Q'S\\L15e"  
Merit Award, 2003 "Whirled Peace"  
First Place, 2002 "Fisher King"  
Best In Show, 2000 "Voluptu,iry"

Art In The Gardens, The Sandhills Horticultural Society, Pinehurst, NC  
Participation since 1998

First Prize, 2011 "Wha.t !n the Whirled"  
Purchase for the Permanent Collection, 2005 "Three RingCirrcis"  
People's Choice Award, 2004 "FisherKili\_g"  
Purchase for the Permanent Collection, 2004 "Axisof Agape"  
People's Choice Award, 2001 "Whirlybird"  
Artist's Choice Award, 1998 "Luna"

Orange County and Chatham County Open Studio Tours, Chapel Hill, NC  
Participation since 1995

Through the years I have been part of these annual tours,  
depending on where I have lived. Through these shows literally

hundreds of my sculptures have found homes in area private collections.

**SELECTED GRANTS, other AWARDS, other SHOWS**

2016-2017 Sculptures in Highpoint, a year long exhibition of three major pieces: *Passionatus*, *Chalice*, and *Beautijii/W/lirlecf*, High Point, NC

2016 Art In Public Places, Best in Show, *Undulation*, Knoxville, Tn.

2015-2016 Sculpture Invitational, *Nested*, Bascom Arts Center, Highlands, NC 2015

Chatham Artists Guild, Guest Artist at the Open Studio Tour, Pittsboro, NC 2013

Biennial Sculpture Invitational Exhibition, *ThwWatchtower1* Cashiers, NC 2012 Cary

Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, *Two Whir/eds Two*, Cary, NC

2011 Sculpture Invitational, *Letthg\_Great Whii:lgd\$pin*, Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio

2010 Dogwoods Arts Festival, Best in Show, *fl\_gwMojo*, Knoxville, Tn.

2010 4th Biennial Sculpture Exhibition, *AirGuitar*, Chattanooga, Tn.

2010 Sculpture Walk IV, *Portal*, Kingsport, Tn.

2009 A Couple of Artists, Two person Show with Clay Carmichael, author/illustrator and wife, The Community Church of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC.

2008 Creative, *Wilmi11gton Downtown Solo Exhibit*, "Four Sculptures by ,MikefZoig," Wilmington, NC.

2008 Cary Vi\_sual Art's Temporary Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, "Air Guitar," winner of the grand prize. Cary, NC. 2008

Dogwood Festival Downtown Sculpture Exhibition, Knoxville, Tn.

2007 Dogwood Festival Downtown Sculpture Exhibition, Knoxville, Tn.

2007 Kingsport Walking Tour of Sculpture, "Yo:Y\_Q'sMtis\_e ' purchased from show for permanent city collection.

Kingsport, Tn.

2007 Jackson Union Sculpture Tour, Jackson, Tn.

2007 Festival Park Sculpture, Fayetteville Museum of Art, Fayetteville, NC.

2006 2n cU nter ngt iona!J ur igtl Exhibitio11, Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park and Museum, Hamilton, Ohio.

2005 19th Rosen Sculpture Competition, Rosen Award Winner for "Yo:Yo's Muse," Appalachian State Universtiy,

**Boone,**

NC.

2005 Fayetteville Museum of Art, 33d Annual Competition, First Prize for "Cloud Lasso," Fayetteville, NC

2004 Art In Place, Great Eastern Management Prize for "Whirled Peace," Charlottesville, Virginia

2004 Carolina Quarterly, featured visual artist in University of North Carolina's literature publication, Chapel Hill, NC

2002 Art/Spirit/Art, The James Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

2002 5000 Flowers, Memorializing 9/11, Chapel Hill Museum, Chapel Hill, NC

2000 Seeds Community Arts Project, Seeds Community Garden, Durham, NC

2000 For the Birds, Niche Gardens, Chapel Hill, NC

1999 Metall.Mettle Two-Artist Show, Bradiggin's Arts Gallery, Hillsborough NC

1999 One Man Show, Art Center Gallery, Carrboro, NC



1999 Sculpture from Recycled Landfill Materials,  
Orange County Recycling and the Orange  
County Arts Commission, Chapel Hill, NC  
1998 Figures and Fauna, Horace Williams House, Chapel Hill, NC  
1998 Purchase Award, for "Pressure Release," Public  
Gallery of Carrboro, Carrboro, NC  
1997 Men At Work, Forum and Function Gallery, Raleigh, NC  
1996-97 Emerging Artists Grant, Durham  
Arts Council, Durham, NC  
PUBLIC SCULPTURE  
University of Kansas Hospital -  
"Triune," Kansas City, Kansas 2011  
City of Knoxville - "Flow Mojo,"  
Knoxville, Tn, 2010  
City of Kingsport - "The Answer, My Friend," Kingsport, Tn. 2010  
The Community Church of Chapel Hill - "Got My Mojo  
Working," Chapel Hill, NC, 2009. City of Kingsport - "Yo-  
Yo's Muse," Kingsport, Tn. 2008  
City of Raleigh - "Glimpses of the Promised Land,"  
sculpture commissioned for the City by the Raleigh  
Arts Commission, Chavis Park, Raleigh, NC, 2006.

City of Charlottesville - "Whirled Peace," sculpture purchased  
by the city for permanent, public installation,  
Charlottesville, Va. 2005.  
Onandaga Community College - "Here Comes the Sun,"  
sculpture purchased for the permanent collection at the  
campus, Syracuse, NY, 2005.  
Onandaga Community College - "Whirled Peace,  
Improved," sculpture purchased for the permanent  
collection at the campus, Syracuse, NY, 2005.  
Sandhills Community College - "Three Ring Cirrus,"  
Campus Collection, Pinehurst, NC, 2005.  
Sandhills Community College - "Bob Dyla's Oracle,"  
Campus Collection, Pinehurst, NC, 2004.  
Residential Services - "Turn, Turn, Turn," Greeting  
sculptural gong and chimes for their sponsored  
retirement home people with special needs, Durham,  
NC, 2004.  
Sandhills Horticultural Society - "Axis of Agape,"  
Visitor's Center Grounds, Pinehurst, NC, 2004.  
Public/Private Partnership: City of Lenoir, Caldwell

Arts Council, Private Donors - "West Wind Sentinel," Gateway Sculpture to the City, Highway 321, Lenoir, NC, 2003.

Town of Chapel Hill - "Promethean Honor Guard," Inaugural project for Chapel Hill's percent for art program. Firehouse No. 5 Chapel Hill, NC, 2002

The Public Gallery of Carrboro - "Tintinnabulation," Public Sculpture, Weaver Street, Carrboro, NC, 2001

The Chapel Hill Zen Group - Ceremonial Bell Installation, Chapel Hill, NC, 2000. The Arts Center - Entry figures for new signage, Carrboro, NC, 1999.

Weaver Street Market - "Pressure Release," purchased from the exhibition "Art on Weaver Street" and installed in custom built fountain basin, Carrboro, NC, 1998. Refitted with cascading spillway and unified into one cohesive sculptural fountain, 2000.

Shepherd House - Commission for illuminated sculpture at the entry for elder housing, Carrboro, NC, 1998.

Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalistic Fellowship - Sculpture commission for central altarpiece, Chapel Hill, NC, 1996.

Moore County Office Park- Sculpture commission, Pinehurst, NC.,1990.

Share this Whirled  
A sculpture by Mike Roig  
Maintenance Document prepared for Blowing Rock, NC



## Part 1: Finishes

Share This Whirled is a sculpture composed of two kinds of steel.



A. The upper, kinetic element (the part that spins in the wind) is stainless steel. It is coated with ProtectaClear, a product manufactured by the Everbrite Corporation specifically designed for stainless steel. Its function is to minimize the effects of water spotting from rain, and finger printing that can leave an undesirable impression on untreated stainless steel. This is a long lasting finish that need not be renewed unless some environmental factor causes dissatisfaction with the appearance of the sculpture.

The only instance that I have encountered that has inspired me to strip the old finish and reapply is in a couple of instances where mold took hold to a strong extent. This has not been a problem in the vast majority of my sculptures, and is a site dependent phenomena. If this is going to be a factor with Share This Whirled in Blowing Rock you should be seeing evidence of that by now after almost two years in its current location.

Most environmental factors, such as bird droppings, road grime, pollen and the like can be dealt with by periodic washing with water, and if needed a mild soap. Even mold can be minimized if washed off before it sets in. Pressure washers can be used on a medium setting.

In short, as with any sculpture pristine appearance versus the effects of nature will depend totally on the level of attention deemed appropriate by the owner. Stainless steel itself will not deteriorate in structural soundness or underlying beauty of the surface treatment.





B. The base is fabricated from recycled industrial steels and painted in two tones with Rustoleum paints. The top of the plinth, and the column that rises to the kinetic element is painted with Rustoleum Hammered Bronze. The bottom part of the plinth is painted with Rustoleum Hammered Black. The entire base is undercoated with a heavy-duty industrial primer, and should give many years of worry free service.

However, paint is paint, and mild steel eventually rusts, so an ideal maintenance plan would include an annual inspection at which point any early signs of deterioration of the paint surface could be dealt with by simple retouching of the paint. Rustoleum is a widely available product who most people will have experience with. Hammered Bronze and Hammered Black can be had in either spray cans or by the brushable quart. I recommend using a brush and stippling the paint on only where required. If at any point in the distant future a full refresh of the surface is desired, I applied the paint with a 4” roller with a medium nap.

Otherwise, as with the upper part of the sculpture, water, and a mild soap if needed, will take care of any accumulation of environmental deposits on the sculpture’s surface.

### Bearing Care and Maintenance

The kinetic element of Share This Whirled revolves on a vertically mounted axle and hub assembly that would be familiar to anybody working in a mechanical maintenance facility that dealt with cars, trucks and trailers.



It is mounted in the sculpture at the juncture of base and kinetic element. The axle itself is welded into the upper, kinetic element and oriented threaded end pointing down. The hub is bolted into top of the base of the sculpture, and the axle slides into the hub supported by two tapered bearings. During the original assembly of the sculpture in Blowing Rock I packed this setting with enough marine grade grease to last for several years of service. These axle and hub assemblies are designed to support a great deal of weight down rough roads, and are being asked to do considerably lighter duty service in their present setting.

Which does not mean they need no attention ever. As with any mechanism a periodic inspection should be performed to assure the bearings are performing as they should. As with the paint inspection, an annual visit to ensure that the topper is moving freely and smoothly, without audible evidence of resistance in the bearings would be ideal.

If there is no evidence of resistance, a once every two year addition of some fresh, marine-grade grease to the hub assembly would also be ideal and extend the life of the bearings. This is accomplished by removing the access door at the top of the base element that is secured with 4 star drive screws.



Looking up into the exposed chamber will reveal the bottom of the hub assembly, which is capped by a “bearing buddy,” a type of grease cap that has a grease nipple built in. Adding fresh grease is simply a matter of using a grease gun and pumping it in until the spring that presses the inner plate to which the nipple is attached begins to compress. Again, this will not be an exotic operation to anyone with rudimentary car maintenance skills.

The annual inspection I’m recommending should not take more than ten to fifteen minutes to perform, and even with the addition of occasional retouching and greasing, a half hour at most. I will happily offer to meet with whoever might be placed in charge of this duty and personally walk through the first of these inspections. This could easily be done during the fall show there or the one in Lenoir, both of which I’ve been known to participate in.

- Mike Roig, sculptor

