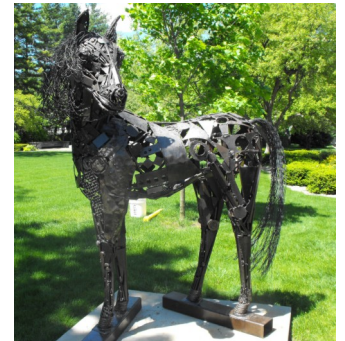
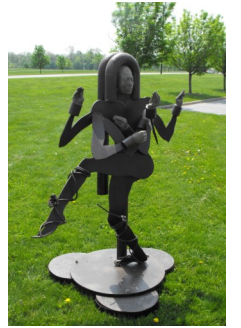


Midwest Sculpture Initiative
11993 East US 223 Blissfield, MI 49228

MSI

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BLISSFIELD, MICHIGAN



Why public art?

The better question is why not? Public art has been with us for time eternal beginning with the cave man. He drew murals on the walls of his cave to illustrate or advertise to others about his fruitful hunt, the size of his family and his day-to-day survival. Early inhabitants of the British Isles built Newgrange and Stonehenge to show their power and to mark their existence. The Egyptians constructed pyramids to honor their pharaohs and in the process created long-lasting reminders of their once great empire. Or consider the Greeks and the Romans, true masters of the carved edifice and statuary, a huge influence still felt today.

As Americans, we've come to this party a bit late and possibly a bit misdirected. Up until the late 1960's, most public art in America was that of creating monuments to our heroes and memorializing wars; there is an important place for this honored art form. But, the 1960's taught us that it is O.K. to make *art for art's sake*, and that we don't have to have a purpose! By the 1980's, many cities and states were forming public art committees and sponsoring sculpture and mural competitions to engage the artists with their communities.

As we enter the new millennium, the engagement continues with temporary outdoor sculpture exhibits. These exhibits have gained appeal because of their accessibility and affordability (as many municipalities cut funding for the arts). Who benefits from these exhibits? Everyone. The exhibits serve to increase awareness of the visual arts, assert that a community is forward thinking and energetic, improve the quality of life, dress-up the urban landscape and provide artists with a venue to showcase and sell the work. Not to mention the economic impact which can be significant.

It is tough in these difficult times to justify public art in any form, but remember: **Art is created not necessarily to sustain life but to enhance it!**

About Midwest Sculpture Initiative

Founded in 2004, The **Midwest Sculpture Initiative (MSI)** was formed out of Ken Thompson's personal desire for more sculpture opportunities and was a natural extension of Flatlanders Sculpture Supply and Art Galleries.

Hence MSI's mission is it: Provide outdoor sculpture exhibitions throughout the Midwest, promote cooperation among art and civic organizations, advance the role that the visual arts play in the quality of life and increase economic development.

In pursuing this goal, MSI has assembled 77 such exhibits thus far with more currently underway for the 2014-15. In organizing all of these exhibits MSI has collaborated with community members, committees, individual hosts, arts professionals and sculptors. MSI possesses a database of over 900 sculptors to solicit work from, a website for promotion of exhibitions, large inventory of 'rentable' concrete pads, the heavy equipment necessary for the placement of pads and artwork, and the expertise to complete the task on time and on budget.

Scope of Services

The **Midwest Sculpture Initiative (MSI)** proposes to institute a Call For Artists and then curate and erect a temporary sculpture exhibition on the sites selected by your committee. The exhibition would be available for public viewing from May, 2014 through April, 2015.

- MSI will pre-select sculptures deemed suitable for the various sites and then submit, in the form of digital presentation the pieces to your committee for review. Under the guidance of MSI the committee would jury the entries down to the final selections;
- MSI will coordinate the production and placement of concrete pads (large sculpture) and/or painted steel pedestals (small sculpture) anchored to appropriate size concrete pads.
- MSI will coordinate the delivery and placement of the sculptures to the site.
- MSI will supply biographical information on each sculptor selected, photographs of each sculpture, erect a dedicated page on our website (msisculpture.com), site signage and provide links to your website(s);
- MSI will assist in the production of brochures, posters, press releases, artist/public reception, etc. by gathering requested materials.
- MSI will be responsible for the removal of the sculptures and pads;
- Individual artists provide insurance for loss or damage. The Hosts will provide General Liability Insurance. MSI provides their own General Liability Insurance.
- MSI actively supports the use of sculpture as a learning tool. MSI will request information concerning sculpture inspiration and construction from the artists for use in educational activities;
- MSI will handle any and all sales of sculptures at a forty percent commission. Twenty percent will revert back to the Host(s).

Our Founder

In 2004, **The Midwest Sculpture Initiative** was formed out of Ken Thompson's personal desire for more sculpture opportunities and was a natural extension of Flatlanders Sculpture Supply and Art Galleries.

Ken Thompson holds a Master of Liberal Studies in Sculpture from the University of Toledo and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting and printmaking from Siena Heights College (University), Adrian, Michigan. Ken has been making sculpture for over thirty-five years out of a former car dealership now turned studio in Blissfield, Michigan. From this facility, he and his assistants operate Flatlanders Sculpture Supply & Art Galleries and the Midwest Sculpture Initiative. Ken is well versed in bronze casting and metal fabrication but prefers stone carving. For additional information about Ken, visit: www.kmthompson.com



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