

PUBLIC ART SELECTION COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.
DEXTER SENIOR CENTER

THE VILLAGE OF DEXTER

Committee Members:

Tom Rosenbaum – Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee
Mike Vickers – Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee
Paul Cousins – Village Council
Rich Bellas – Downtown Development Authority
Marni Schmid – Planning Commission
Randy Hermann – Parks & Recreation Commission
Phil Arbour – Village Resident
Mary Ellen Miller – Village Resident

- 1) Permanent Art Proposals for LaFontaine Sculpture
 - a) Ty (6:30 pm)
 - b) John Schwarz (7:00 pm)

- 2) Permanent Art Piece Proposal – Bicycle Sculpture

VILLAGE OF DEXTER

cnicholls@dextermi.gov

8140 Main Street Dexter, MI 48130-1092

Phone (734)426-8303 ext 17 Fax (734)426-5614

MEMO

To: Public Art Selection Committee
From: Courtney Nicholls, Assistant Village Manager
Date: June 16, 2014
Re: Proposed Permanent Art Pieces

LaFontaine

As part of the site plan approval process, LaFontaine included an area for a sculpture near the corner of Ryan and Dexter Ann Arbor. \$5,000 is being held in a Village escrow account to pay for the art.

The Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee discussed the idea of soliciting an automotive themed sculpture for this area. A request for proposals was issued and was due on April 1, 2014. Four proposals were received; one was removed from consideration because it was not what was requested in the RFP. Victoria Schon, Paul Cousins and Lynn Babcock from the ACH Committee met with the other three artists on site to review their submissions. Following this meeting one of the artists decided not to move forward in the process.

Both artists (Ty Rentenbach and John Schwarz) will be attending the meeting to present their idea to the Selection Committee. A copy of the RFP and the information submitted by each artist is provided for the Committee's review.

Bike Sculpture

At a previous Art Selection Committee meeting, the Committee looked at a bike sculpture proposal recommended by the Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee.

As a refresher, this idea was proposed by the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society, through ACH Committee member Lynn Babcock. Lynn has worked to secure \$1500 in funding towards the sculpture from Aberdeen Bike in Chelsea, Dexter Bike, and the Touring Society. The proposed sculpture was designed by local artist Rick DeTroyer. At the last meeting the Committee had several ideas that were incorporated by Mr. DeTroyer in his updated design. The bikes have been moved up higher to deter climbing. He has also proposed adding a circular base at the bottom of the sculpture as further protection. A model of his idea will be available at the meeting.

The proposed location is along the path to Dexter Huron Metropark that will start on Central St. The final location will be determined once the final alignment of the path is set.

REQUEST FOR SCULPTURE PROPOSAL FOR AUTOMOTIVE 3-D ART

Proposals are being solicited for the design and construction of an automotive themed sculpture for a permanent installation in front of LaFontaine Chevrolet (7120 Dexter Ann Arbor) in Dexter, Michigan. The use of recycled auto parts is encouraged. The size and scale must be appropriate to the location and fit within the parameters of the available space (not to exceed 15'H x 10'W x 10'D).

Selection

The Village Council and Selection Committee will evaluate the proposals using the following criteria: quality of presentation and artistic merit, technical ability, experience fabricating and installing artwork, and site suitability.

Submission Process

Proposals should include a sketch of the sculpture, a list of materials to be used, images of at least three existing works and a letter of intent, including timeline for delivery. Proposals are due April 1, 2014 and should be submitted to the Village of Dexter, 8140 Main, Dexter, MI 48130.

Stipend

Artist selected will receive \$5,000.

Questions

Questions regarding the proposal should be directed to Assistant Village Manager Courtney Nicholls at 734-426-8303 x17 or cnicholls@dextermi.gov

Hello, my name is William (Ty) Rentenbach. I am very interested in producing an Automotive themed sculpture to be placed in front of Lafontaine Chevrolet. I am a Welder Fabricator for the University of Michigan and have worked there since 1999. I have been a Welder for over 30 years, and have a great knowledge of working with all metals.

I also enjoy doing metal art. It has become a great passion of mine, and I have been doing sculptures of my own for over 10 years. I have included pictures of some of my work, with many more pieces of art not shown. I would like you to take note of some materials used in various pieces; nails, railroad spikes, cut nails, bearings, various hardware/fittings, as well as some stainless steel pieces that I colored naturally using an oxy-acetylene torch. I have dabbled with wrought iron work as well.

I am ready, ready, ready to take my work to the next level! This project is exactly what I have been wanting to do! I love older cars and the idea of making art from their parts. I want to make kind of a "Rat Ride" theme (google if curious), with maybe a driver (robot/skeleton theme) also made of auto/industrial parts.

I have an email that was sent to me by friends, that has this same theme, with pictures similar to what I have in mind. I will forward this to you so you can see the ideas I will be working from.

Given the area to be used at Lafontaine, I see no problem in designing a sculpture to fit. I am experienced in anchoring steel to concrete using various hardware and can install the art to be theft/tamper proof, in a way that is pleasing to the eye.

Junk-yarding would be the first item on the list of things to do. I would search out car parts of chrome, and really old school body lines. Gauges, fans, chrome hubcaps, Chevrolet logo's, letter badging, engine parts like pistons, connecting rods, timing chains, crank shafts, horns, etc. would be the types of items I would like to use.

I have a great idea in my head of what this car will look like, but I am not great at sketching a vehicle. Also, generally art of this nature kind of takes on a personality of its own as I get going.

I can tell you that I feel that I was meant to do this project! If selected, I will pour everything I have into this project. When I take on something with this enthusiasm in life, I never fail!

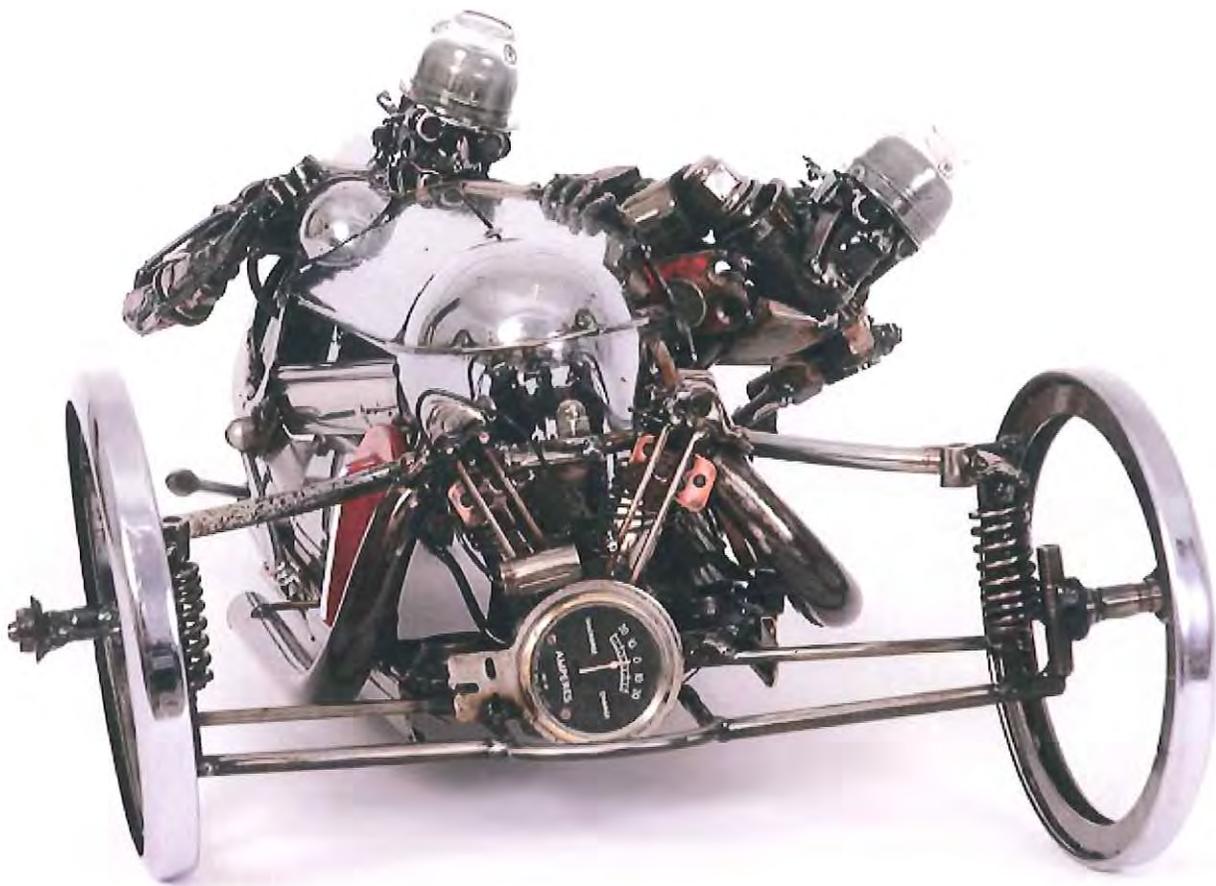
As far as a time line, I feel that this project could take several months. Still being able to complete and install by sometime this summer. Updates can be given as the project progresses.

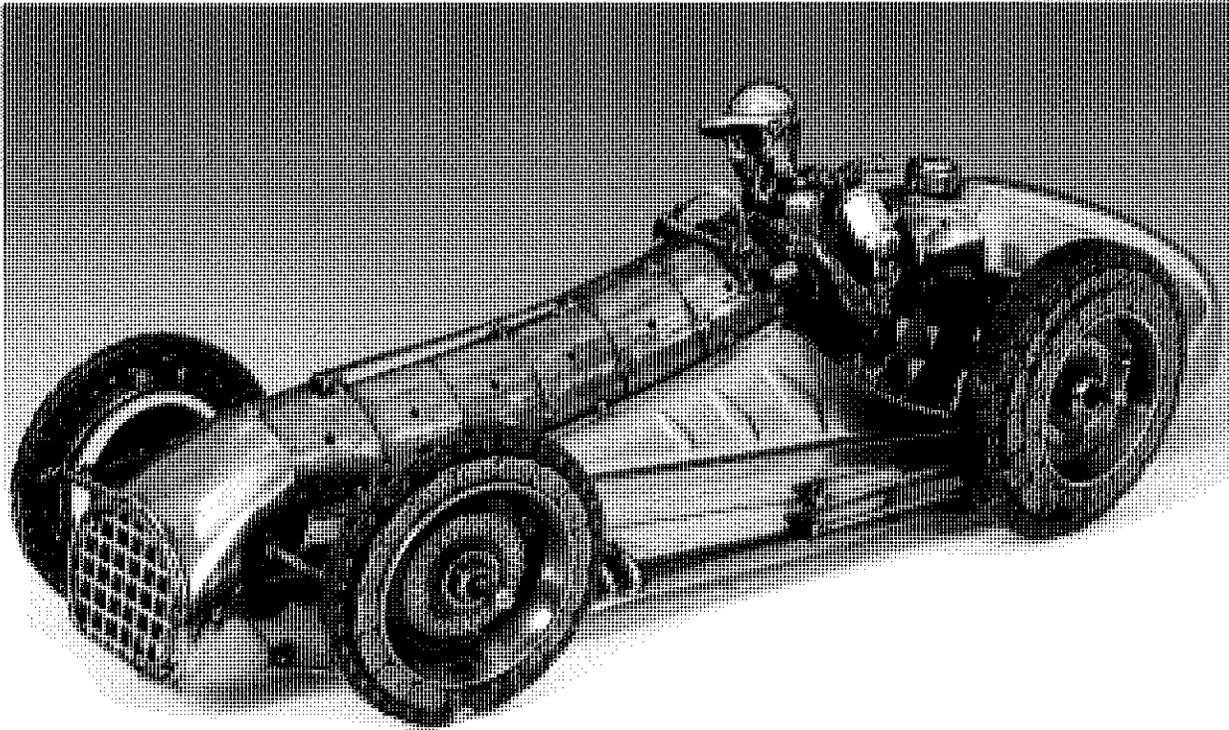
I live right here in the village, at 7279 York Street. Actually, right behind Lafontaine Chevrolet. When the Village Council and selection committee have a meeting, and its a nice day, maybe you could just take a walk on over and see how things are going.

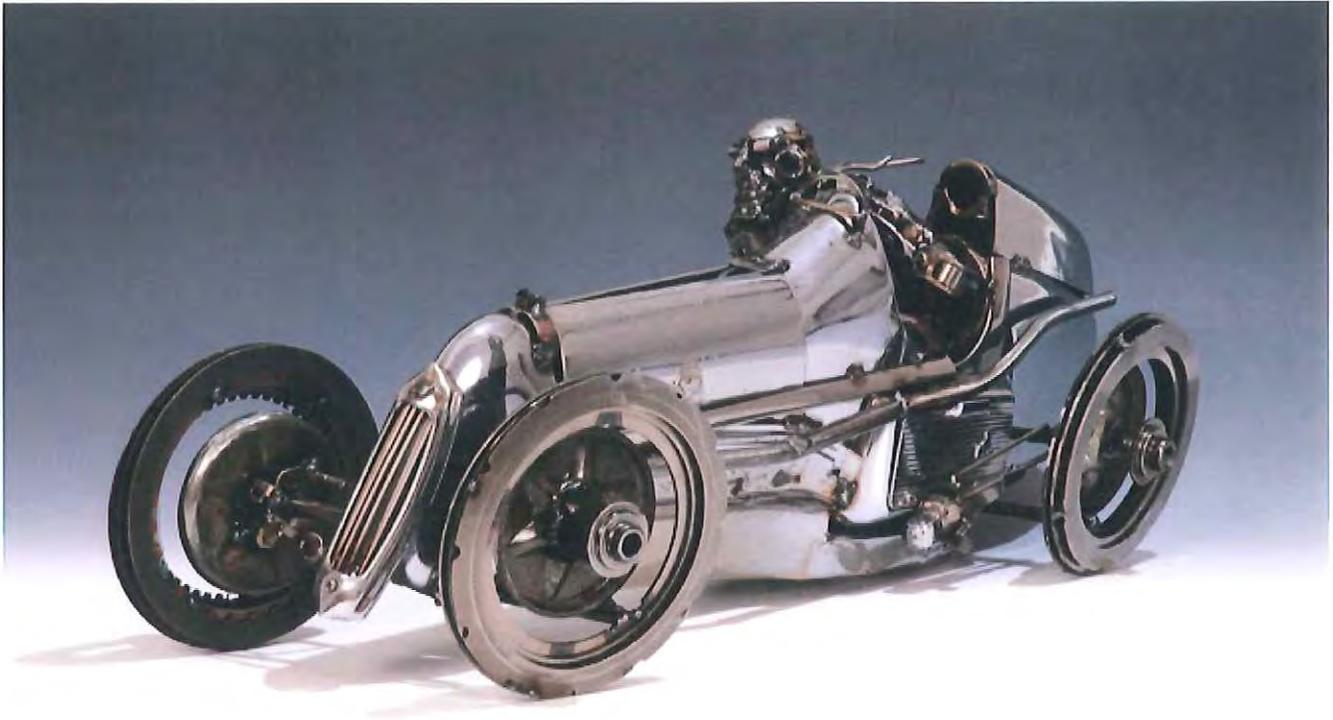
In closing, I want to thank you for considerations on this project. I think it would be as rewarding for me as it would be for the village. I also think it could be the start of something great, as I have a lot of ideas for larger pieces of metal art that would be themed for the Village of Dexter.

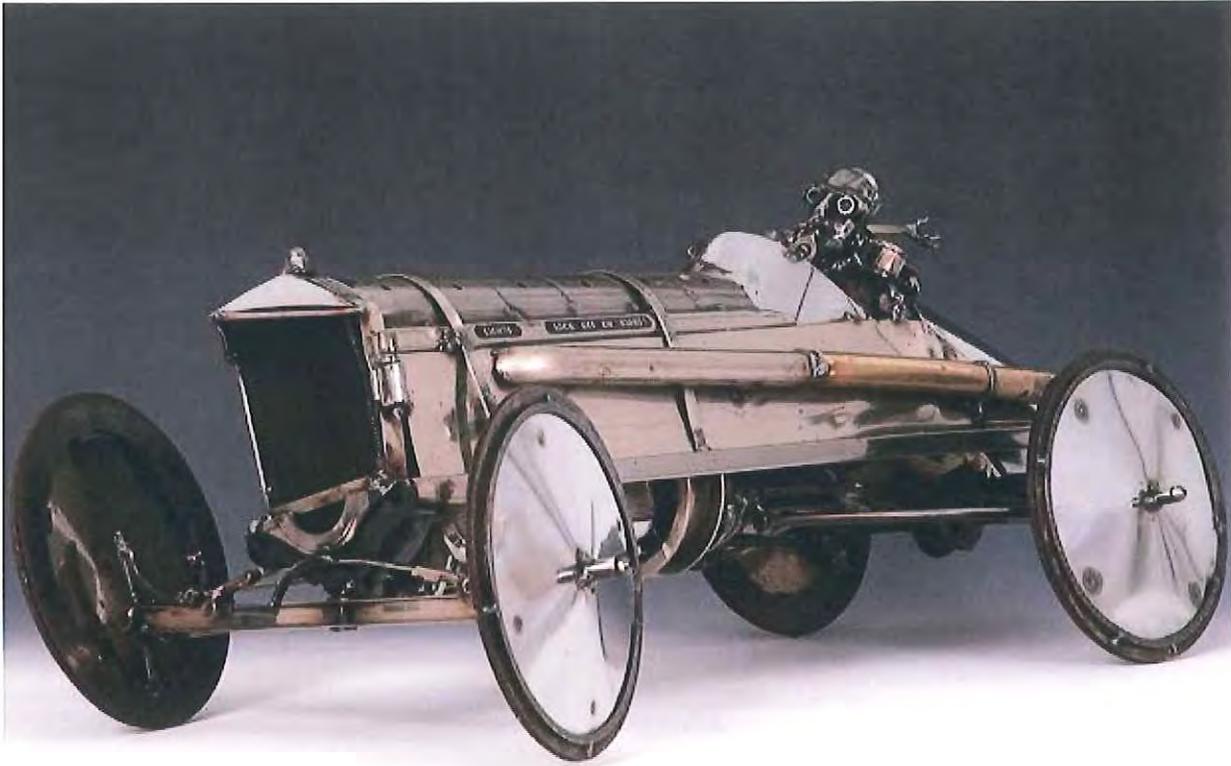
Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

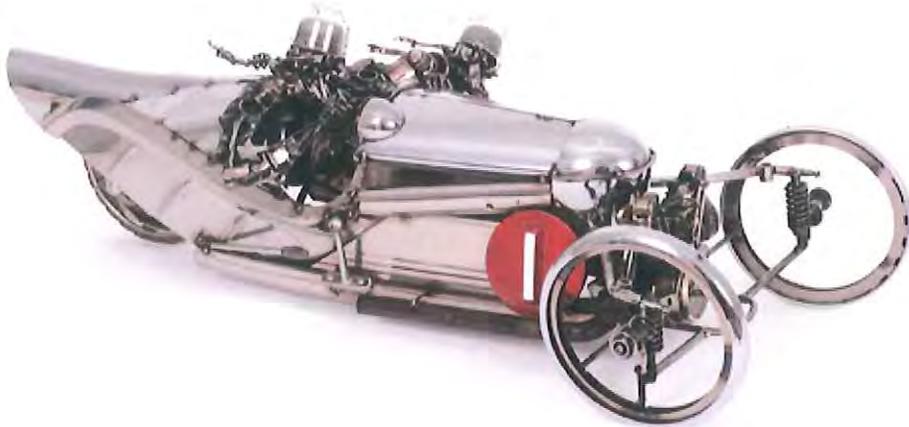
Sincerely,
Ty Rentenbach 734-644-1099 or tyrent193@yahoo.com

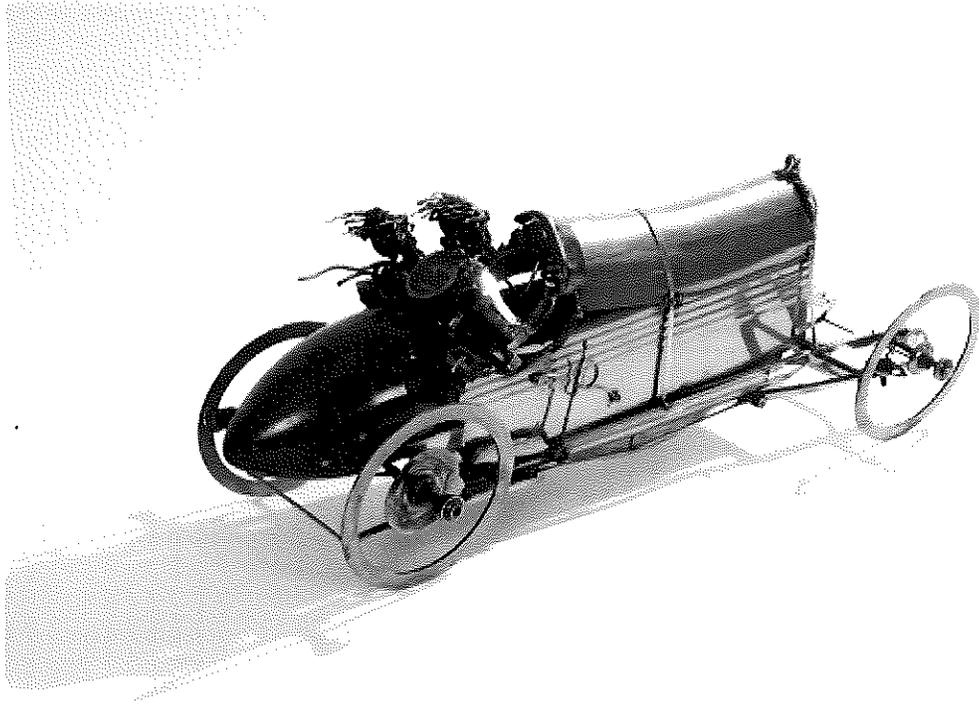


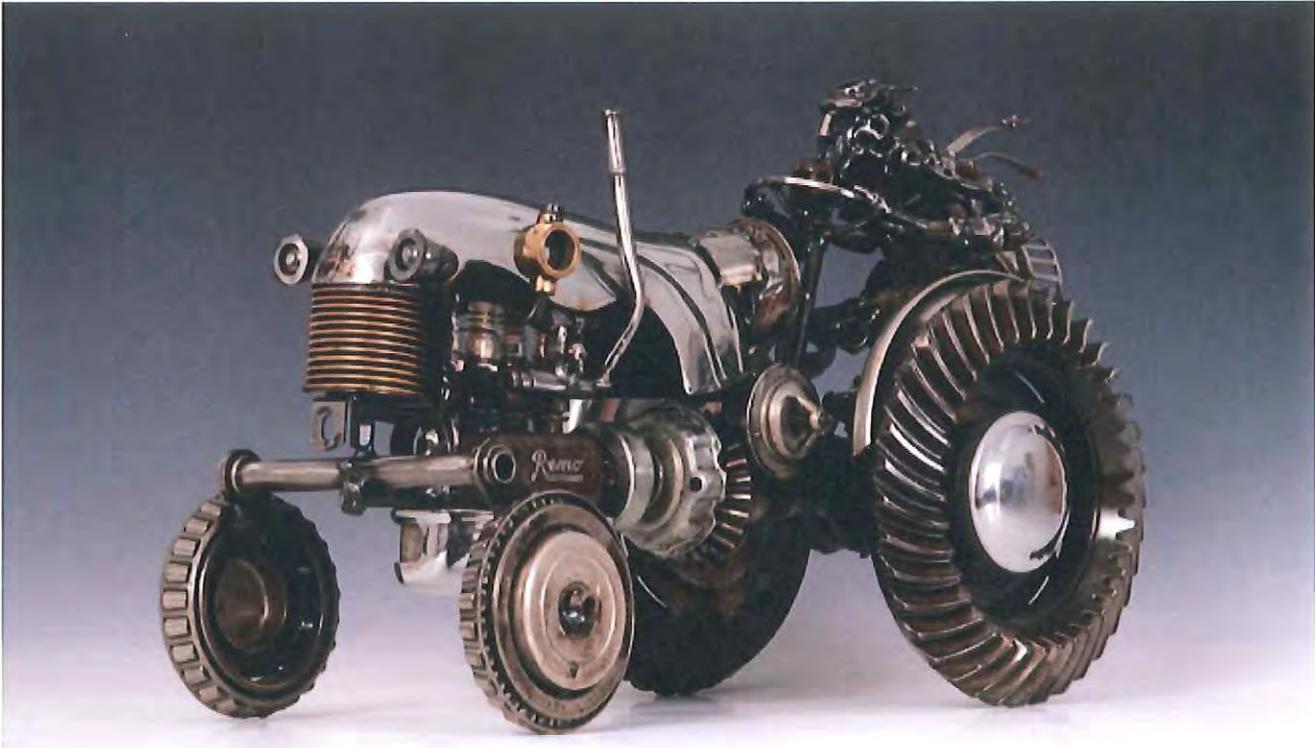






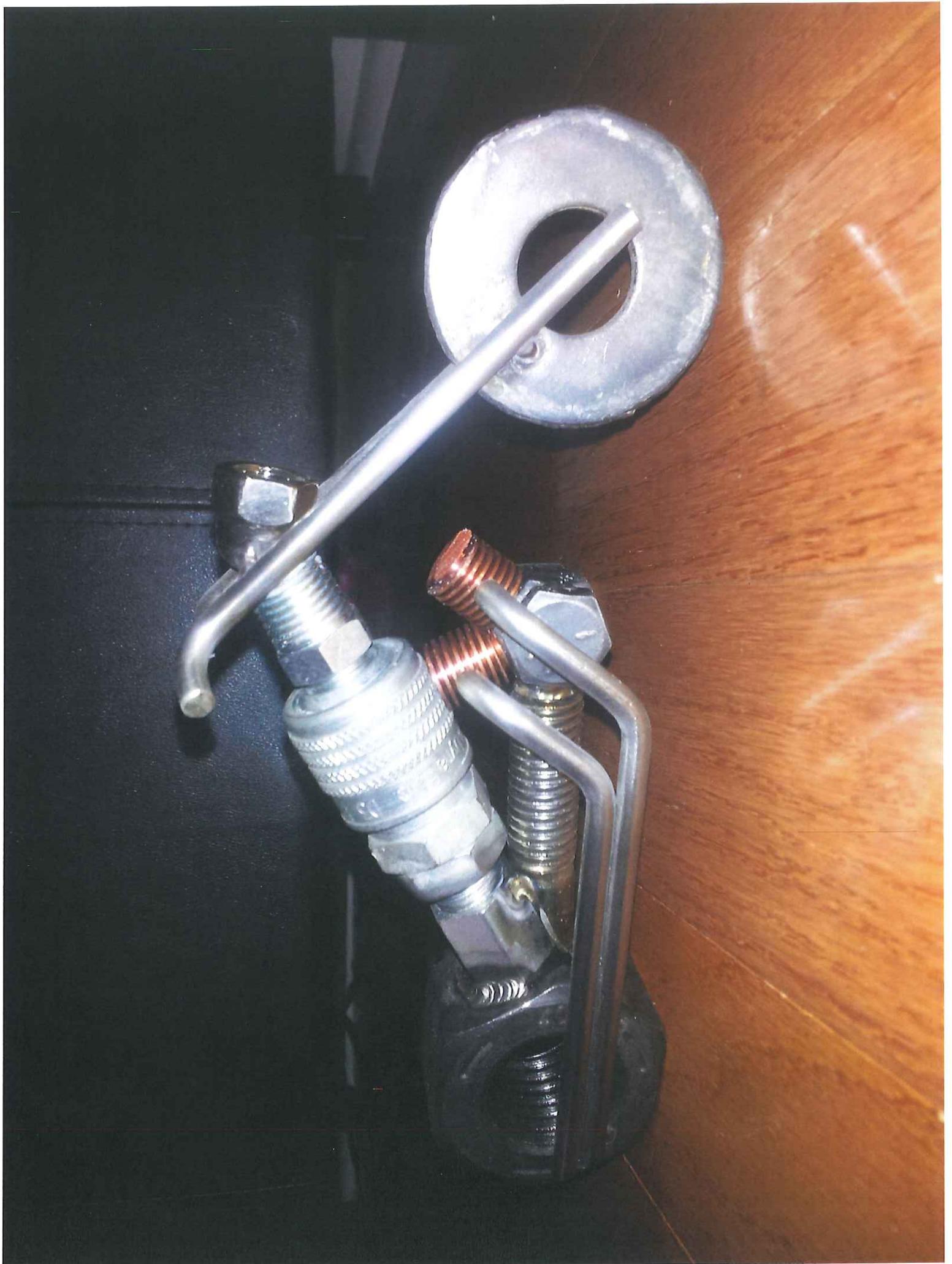










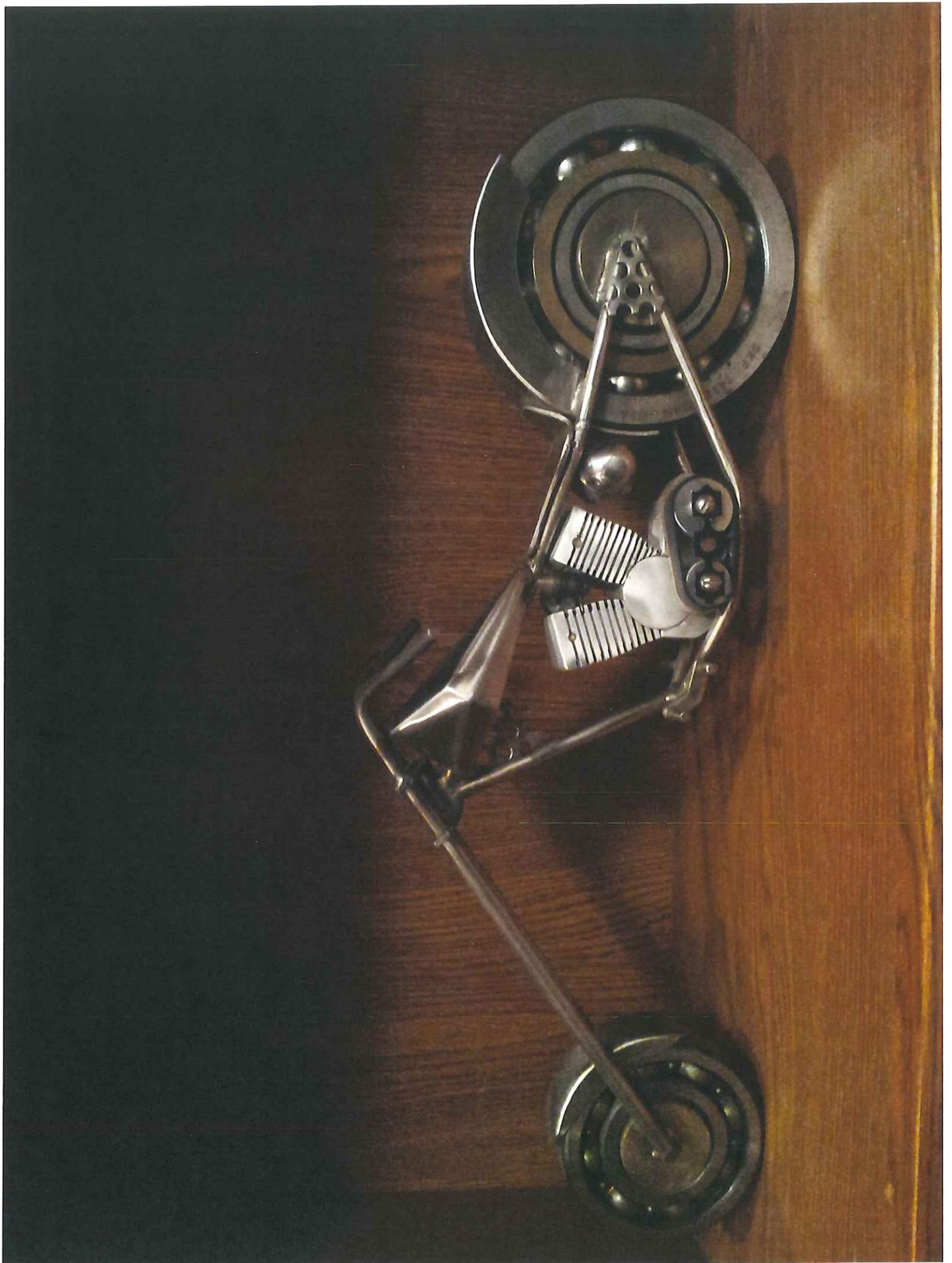




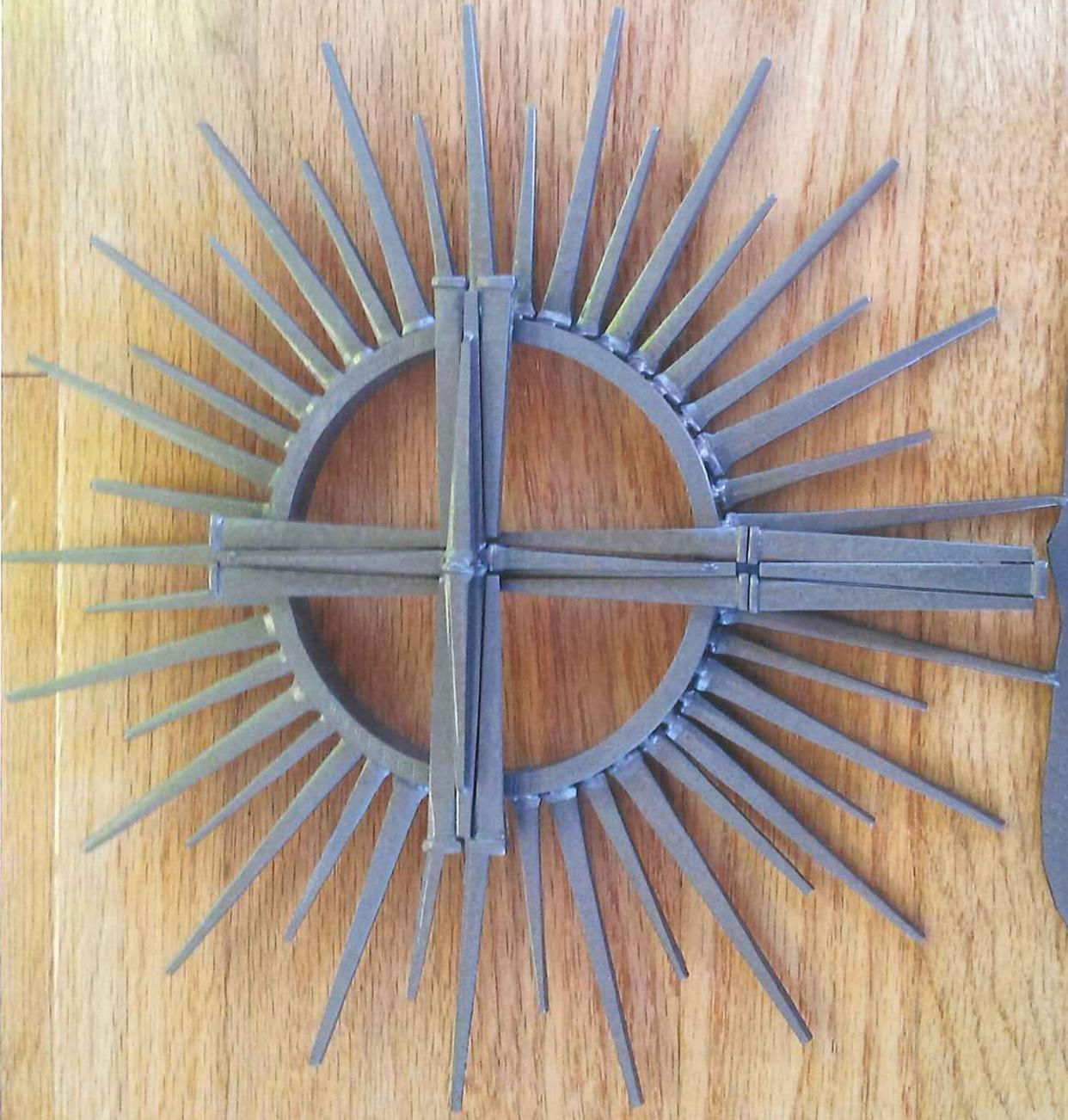




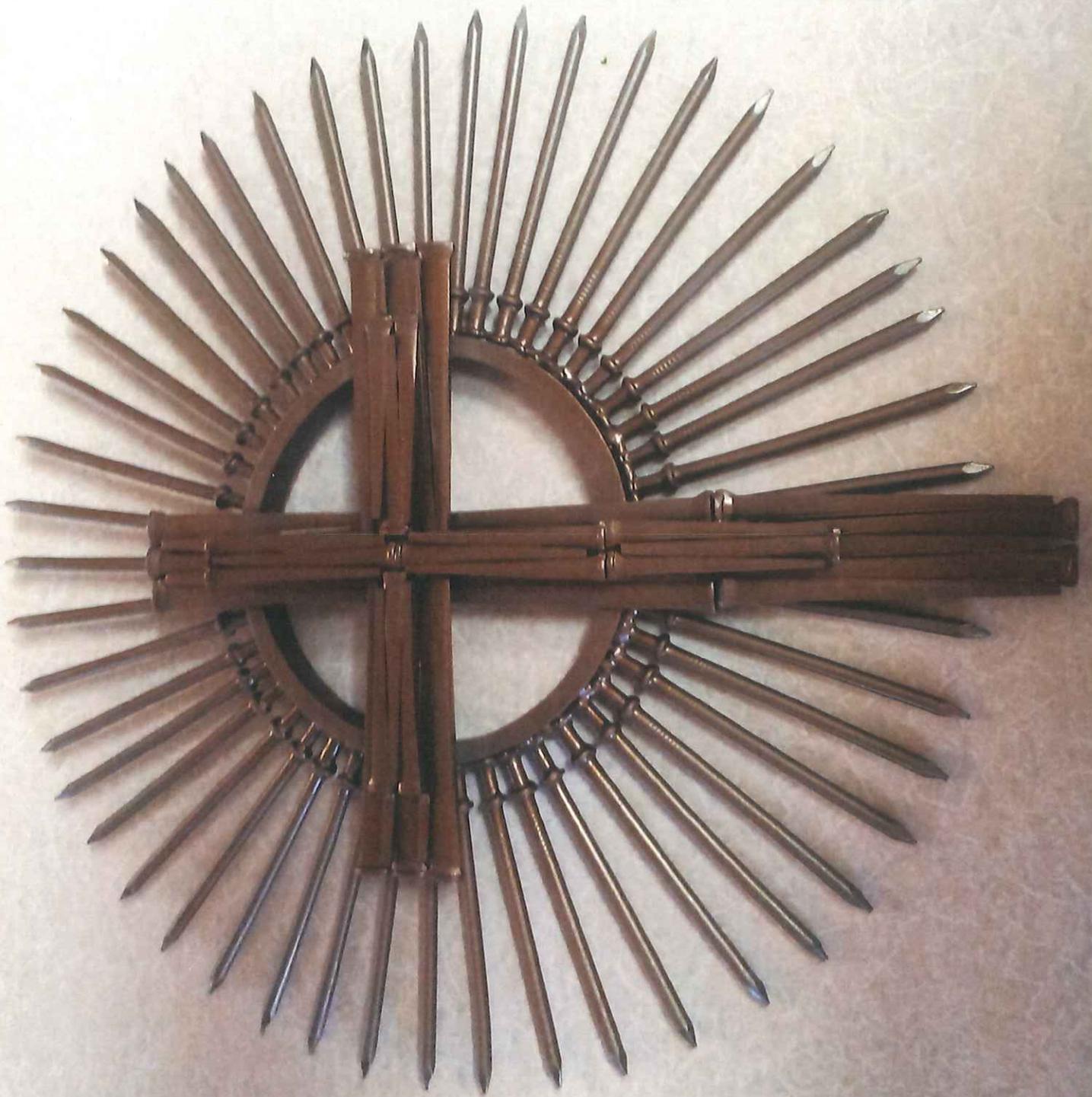








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Courtney Nicholls

From: Schwarz, John <JSchwarz@dcds.edu>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 2:59 PM
To: cnicholls@dextermi.gov
Cc: vs.daisylake@gmail.com
Subject: Dexter Public Sculpture project Submission [John Schwarz recycled materials artist]

Dexter public sculpture submission...John Schwarz recycle assemblage artist.

Howdy....Happy spring art lovers. I would love to be considered for the upcoming Dexter public sculpture project. My current work is almost entirely welded or constructed with recycled materials and much of it is automotive in nature and seems like an appropriate "fit". I will say up front though, a sculptural piece of "public art" the scale described in the below email generally would be more than 5 thousand dollars.

To review my current sculptural works , show, artist statement, Bio and related info , please go to

chelsearivergallery.com and click artists and my name.

*If you have questions please feel free to contact me at any time. Thank You for considering my work.

jschwarz@dcds.edu

John Schwarz 1-734-476-8896

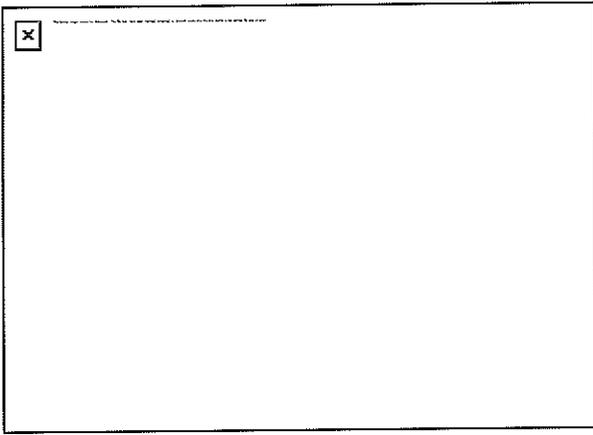
johnschwarz@comcast.net



We have liftoff

The metallic brain-children of John Schwarz

BY JACOB AXELRAD



John Schwarz makes big sculptures. Among those familiar with his work, there's a running joke: If it's not heavy, John didn't make it.

"Everything I make is heavy," he said with a laugh.

Schwarz, 54, has sculpted space men, exotic deep-sea fish and even flying dragons—winged creations reminiscent of Leonardo Da Vinci's flying machines. The materials he's used have ranged from golf clubs and old skis to glass bottles and a snow blower. All of which he gathered from garage sales, recycling centers or by walking down the street.

"I'm always looking. I'm always collecting things," he said.

His latest exhibition—on display at the River Gallery in Chelsea—features a series of robots built from assembled parts, over 90 percent of which is recyclable.

Though his pieces can have a random, chaotic feel, he applies the same discipline and technique he learned studying ceramics in art school, first at Eastern Michigan University and later, for his Master of Fine Art degree, at the University of Michigan. For Schwarz, assembling objects is often no different than a painter deciding which color to select from his pallet.

"You have to think it through. Folks assume you can just put anything together, and you really can't," he said.

A real iron man

His passion for machines began at a young age. With a NASA engineer for a father, it was instinctual for him to bolt together incompatible items, learning what looked good and what didn't—a practice that serves him well to this day. As an avid science fiction fan who found refuge in making art, the seeds for his current mechanical work were planted long ago.

Still, for most of his artistic career, he kept art and machines separate. He stuck with clay, the medium he studied in school. That is, until his wife Patti co-created the River Gallery in 2000 to showcase her husband's work. Shortly after the gallery opened, Patti turned to John with an unusual request. "We're going to need some funky stuff," he remembers her telling him. His response was casual. "Well, I can make funky stuff out of anything," he recalls saying.

He began bolting and welding objects together, employing skills honed from years of sculpting experience, creating structures befitting a scene from the Star Wars films or the Star Trek television series, both of which he loved as a kid.

From there, pieces began to sell. Soon, he was responding to requests for his pieces from places as far away as Florida and South Korea. Schwarz did not stop. "I thought, 'Oh my gosh. I need to keep making these things,'" he said.

One piece of his wound up in the Ripley's Believe or not International Museum. His piece "Reluctant Hero," which depicts a robot morphing into a flying super hero, found a local home in the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, where the piece has taken on a bit of mythic significance for business students: They touch the sculpture before final exams for good luck.

Switching media

Had he not switched mediums, he might never have seen this type of notoriety.

"I never would have done this with clay. There's a potter under every rock between here and San Diego," he said, adding that though others do similar work with found objects, he distinguishes himself by incorporating clay, maintaining his roots even while constructing metallic, futuristic designs. "There are a lot of artists who assemble robots with cans and vacuum cleaners," he said. "The thing that I do differently is I use clay in a lot of mine. I'll use clay fins for a dinosaur or a fish sculpture." Schwarz says one of the hardest obstacles to overcome is the eventual distance between him and the work. After all that time spent scavenging, collecting, assembling, reassembling and deciding, say, which pair of car headlights make the best eyes for a giant-squid sculpture, it can be difficult to let go.

"You have this sense of loss," he said. "Most of [my sculptures] I'll never see again. It's a weird detachment that you go through with art."

"New Work" on display Saturday, January 18 through

Saturday March 1. Opening Reception Saturday January 18, 5–8 pm. River Gallery, 120 S Main St., Chelsea.

734-433-0826. chelsearivergallery.com

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John Schwarz |

Rigmarole

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Artist Statement

The process of assembling multi-material sculptures out of recycled objects continues to be an exciting blend of Recycle Center scavenging, garage sale picking, backyard engineering and happy accidents. There isn't a book of rules or guidelines to assist the "would be" repurposing materials artist. The contemporary assemblage artist is on his own; a bit like the cowboy of old with his saddle pack and box of tools, broken implements and shade tree mechanical ingenuity. Nuts, bolts, washers and socket wrenches are among the tools I use to assemble my ragtag collection of parts into art. My composition is drawn from bikes, cars, lawnmowers, domestic appliances, sports equipment and the mysterious gifts of "stuff" dropped off for me by neighbors and friends.

All of this incubates, evolves and eventually coheres into freestanding sculptures and wall creatures. My new body of work includes metal "Jurassic" incarnations, whimsical creatures, elegant animals from land and sea and robotic tin men circa 1950's. The son of a NASA engineer, I am inspired by mechanics and grew up in the era of Sci-Fi movies, Apollo lunar landings, flying saucers and popular science magazines. I let the parts "talk" and dictate the final look and scale of the finished pieces. Gone are the drawing pads and slide rulers. Instead I've chosen to follow an intuitive path. With less preplanning in place I maintain a keen eye on art foundation principles and look for the moments of comedic relief. Happy Trails...

John Schwarz

[Article about John's work on Current](#)

[View Artist's Resume](#)



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John Schwarz

Biography

Education

1982: Bachelor of Fine Art in Ceramics, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti MI

1984: Master of Fine Art in Ceramics, The University of Michigan School of Art, Ann Arbor MI

1982 – 1984: Teaching Assistant [TA] in Ceramics, The University of Michigan School of Art, Ann Arbor, MI.

1983: recipient of the “Didvig” most promising Graduate student scholarship award, University of Michigan.

Experience

1984 – Present: Ceramics/Sculpture Instructor, Detroit Country Day School, Birmingham MI.

2001/2/3: Workshop Instructor, Raku Glazing / Firing Technique.

River Gallery in conjunction with Chelsea Center for the Development of the Arts Chelsea, MI.

1998: Teacher of the Year, Metro Parent Magazine, Oakland County, MI.

1997: Co-coordinator of “Empty Bowls Fundraiser” MAEA Conference, Detroit, MI.

1996: Guest Lecturer, MAEA Conference, Lansing MI.

1995-1997: Coordinator of “Empty Bowls Fundraiser” at Detroit Country Day School.

Exhibits

2010/11; 2011/12: Chelsea Sculpture Walk 1 year display participant.

2009/10/11/: Art Prize Art Competition Sept- Oct, Grand Valley State University Campus, Grand Rapids Mich.

2010/11: Open Competition, June 4th, University of Michigan Dearborn. Berkowitz Gallery.

2009: By All Means Show, Buckham Gallery Flint Mich. Second Place award.

2009: Risk takers and Innovators Show, Tribute to John Stephenson. Clay Gallery Ann Arbor Mich. August 1st

2008: Marshall Fredrick’s sculpture Museum show, Saginaw Mich. Honorable Mention.

2007: One Man show: Mechanical Natures, River Gallery, Chelsea, MI.

2007: The Scarab Club – Blooms, Bugs, Beasts show, 1st place, Detroit, MI.

2006: Grosse Pointe Artists Association Juried Exhibition, Best in Show, Grosse Pointe, MI.

2002: Clay / Paper / Wood / Canvas, River Gallery, Chelsea, MI.

2001/2: Faculty Exhibition, Detroit Country Day School, Birmingham, MI.

1984: MFA Exhibit, Sulser Gallery, the University of Michigan School of Art.

1982: BFA Exhibit, Intermedia Gallery, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI.

Published

2010: Featured article August Indiana Lakes Magazine

2009: Live NPR artist /participant phone/radio interview about Art Prize.

2009: "Around Town with Linda": local television interview, Aired for one month.

2008: Fall Cover and eight page feature article in Sculptural Pursuit Magazine.

Collections

2008: Ripley's Believe it or not International Museums and collections.

2009: University of Michigan Ross Business School collection, Ann Arbor Mich.

2011/12: Mott Children's Hospital, Ann Arbor Mich.

Represented by River Gallery, Chelsea MI

March Hours : Wednesday - Saturday 11 - 5.

120 S Main St., Chelsea, MI 48118

Phone: 734.433.0826

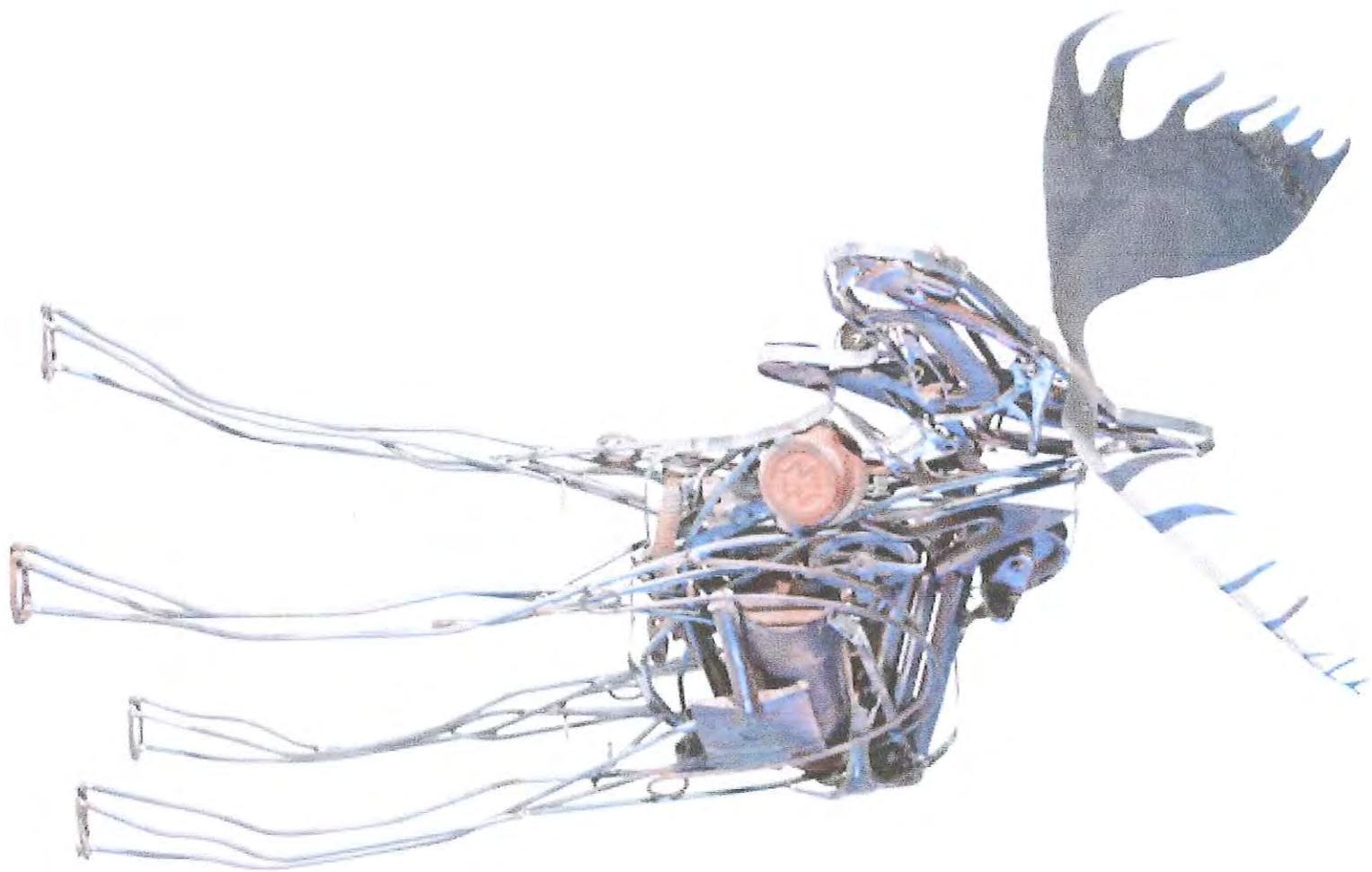
info@chelsearivergallery.com

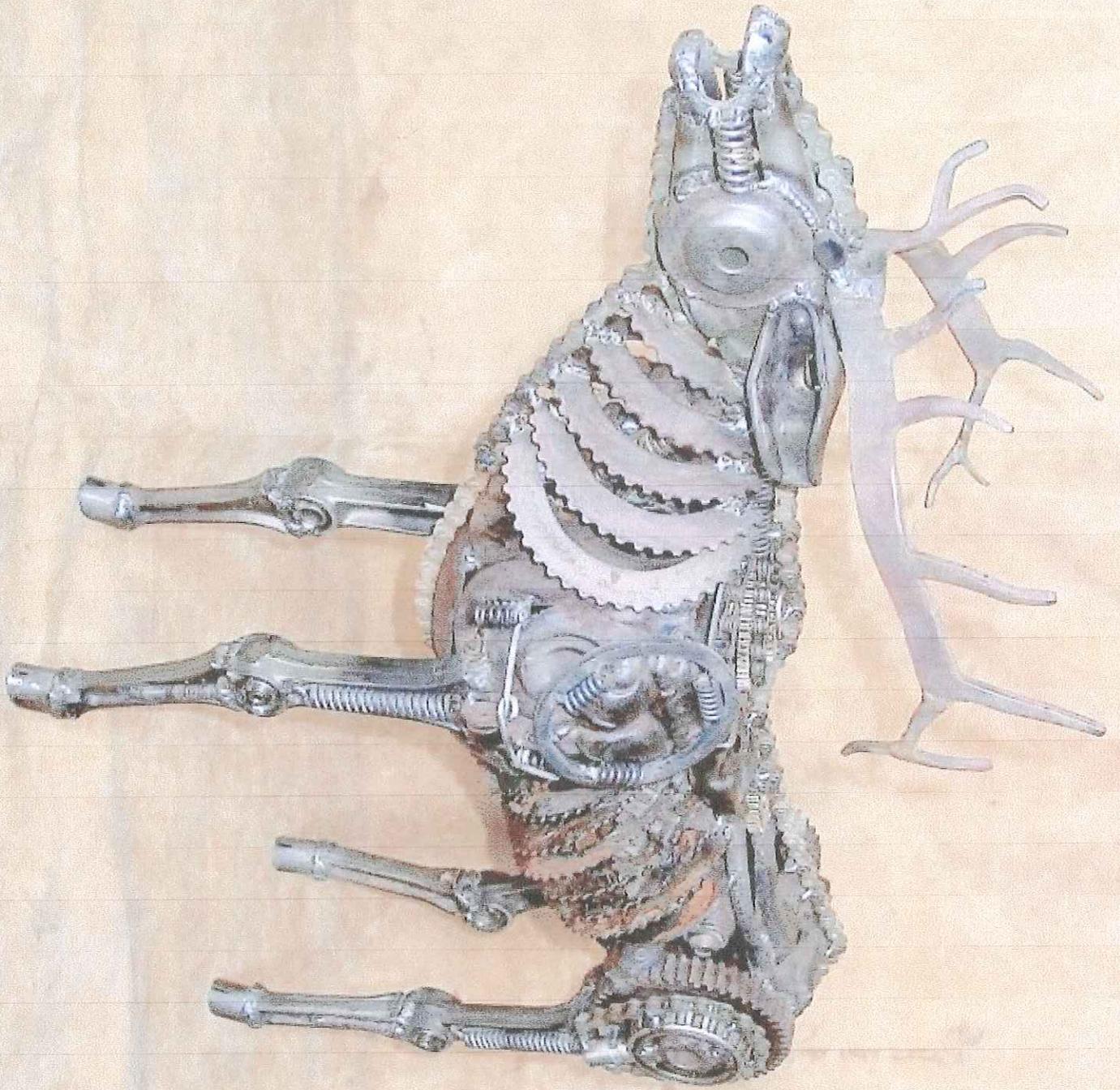
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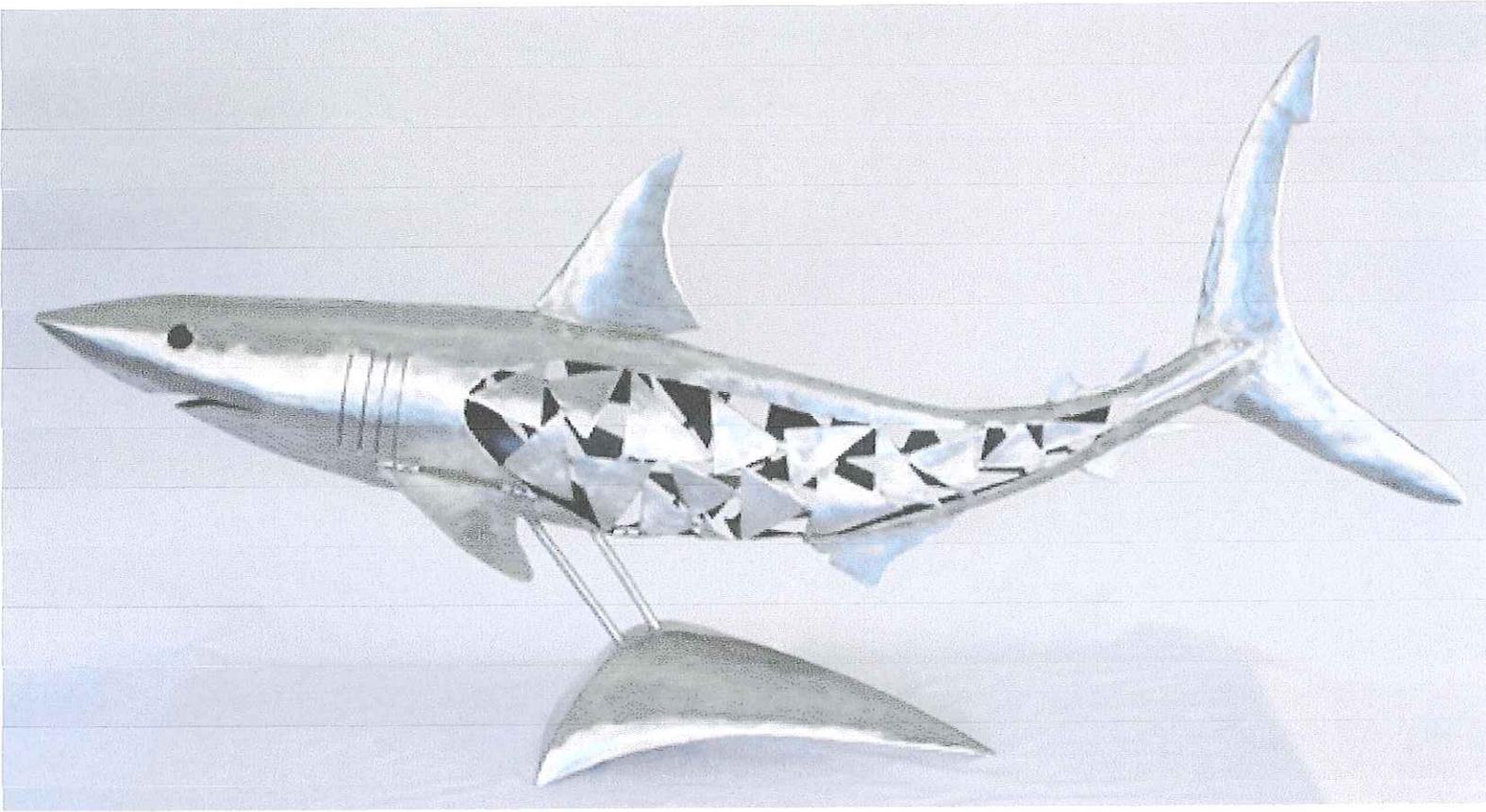
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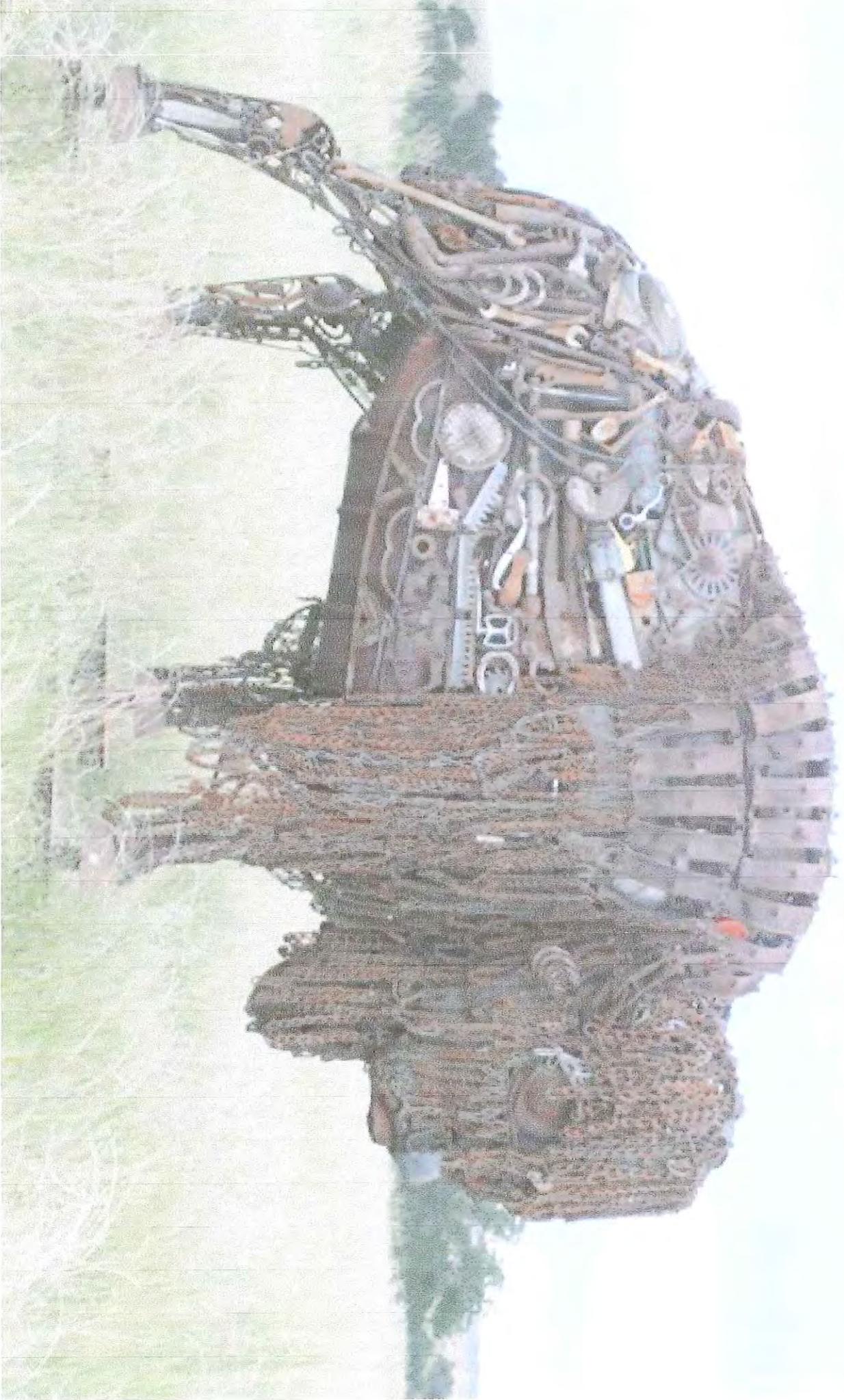
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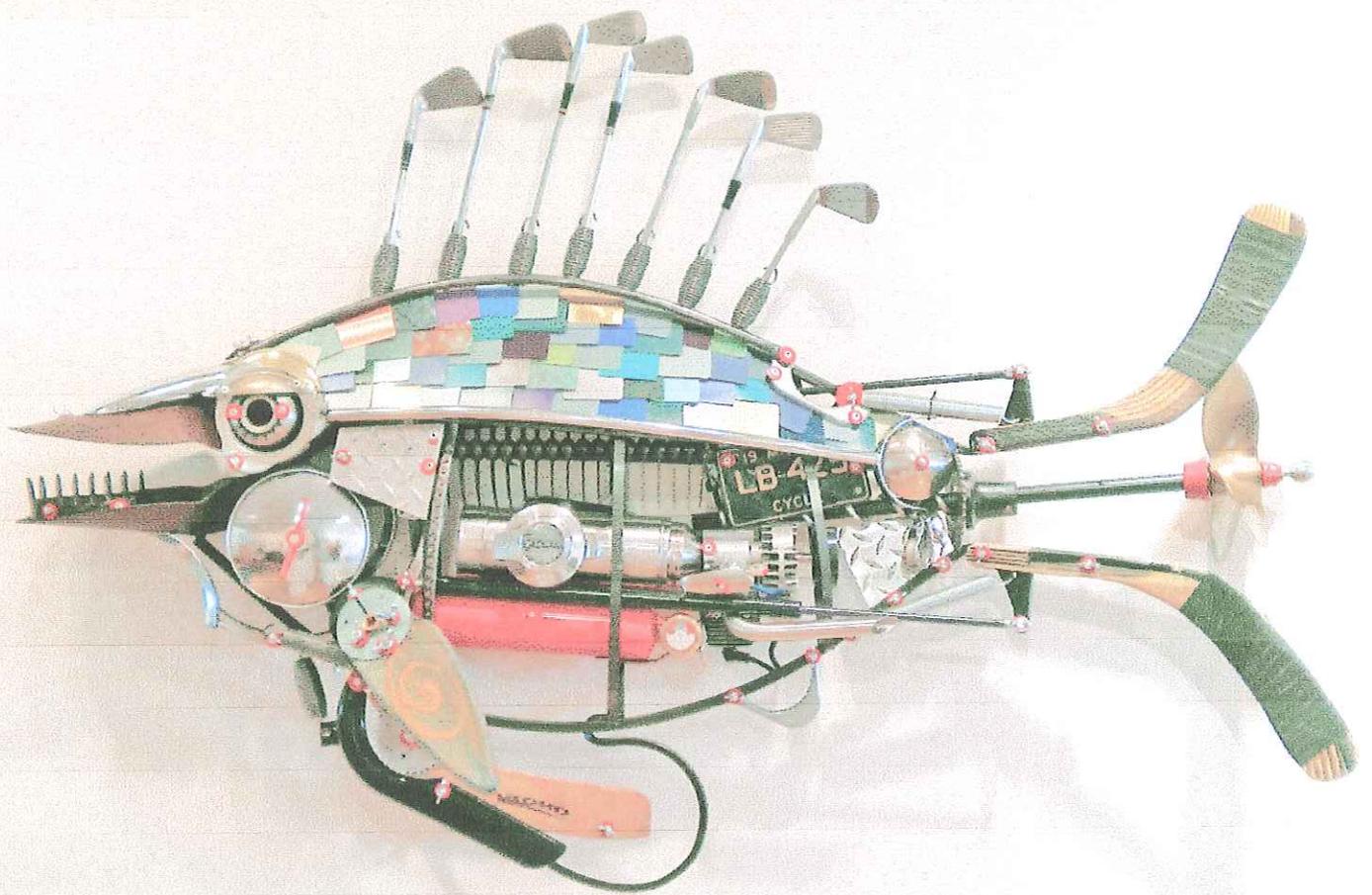


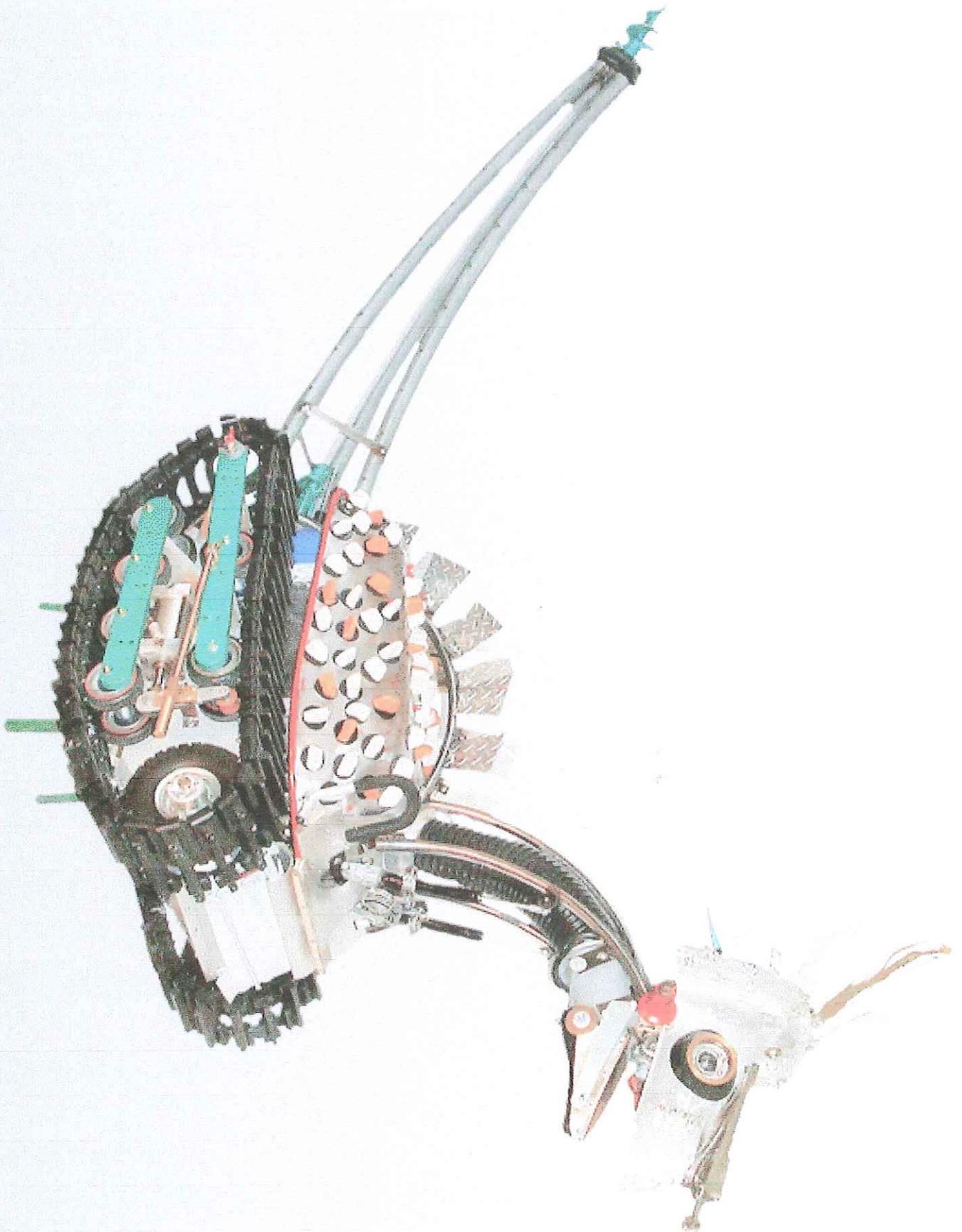


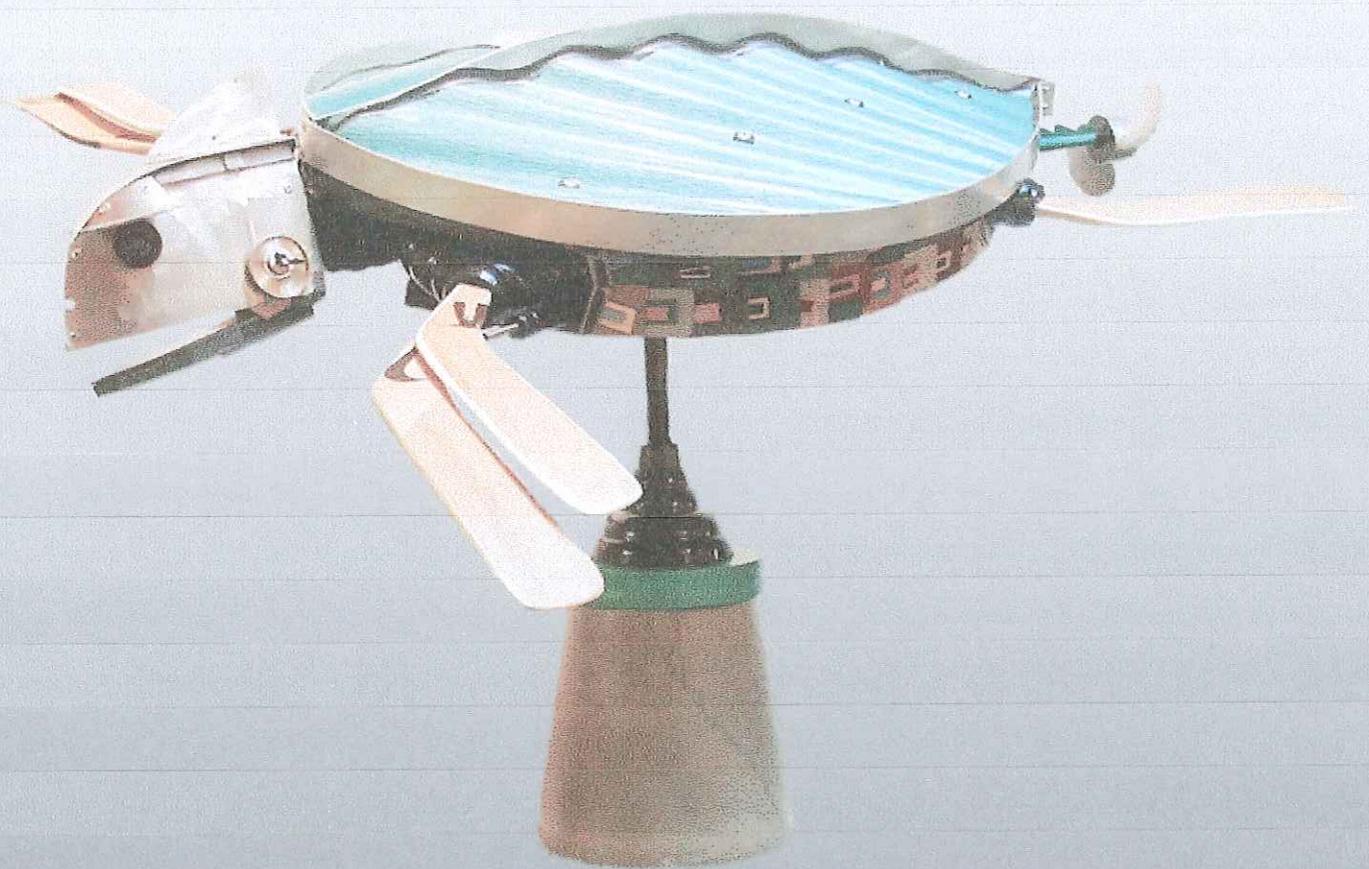


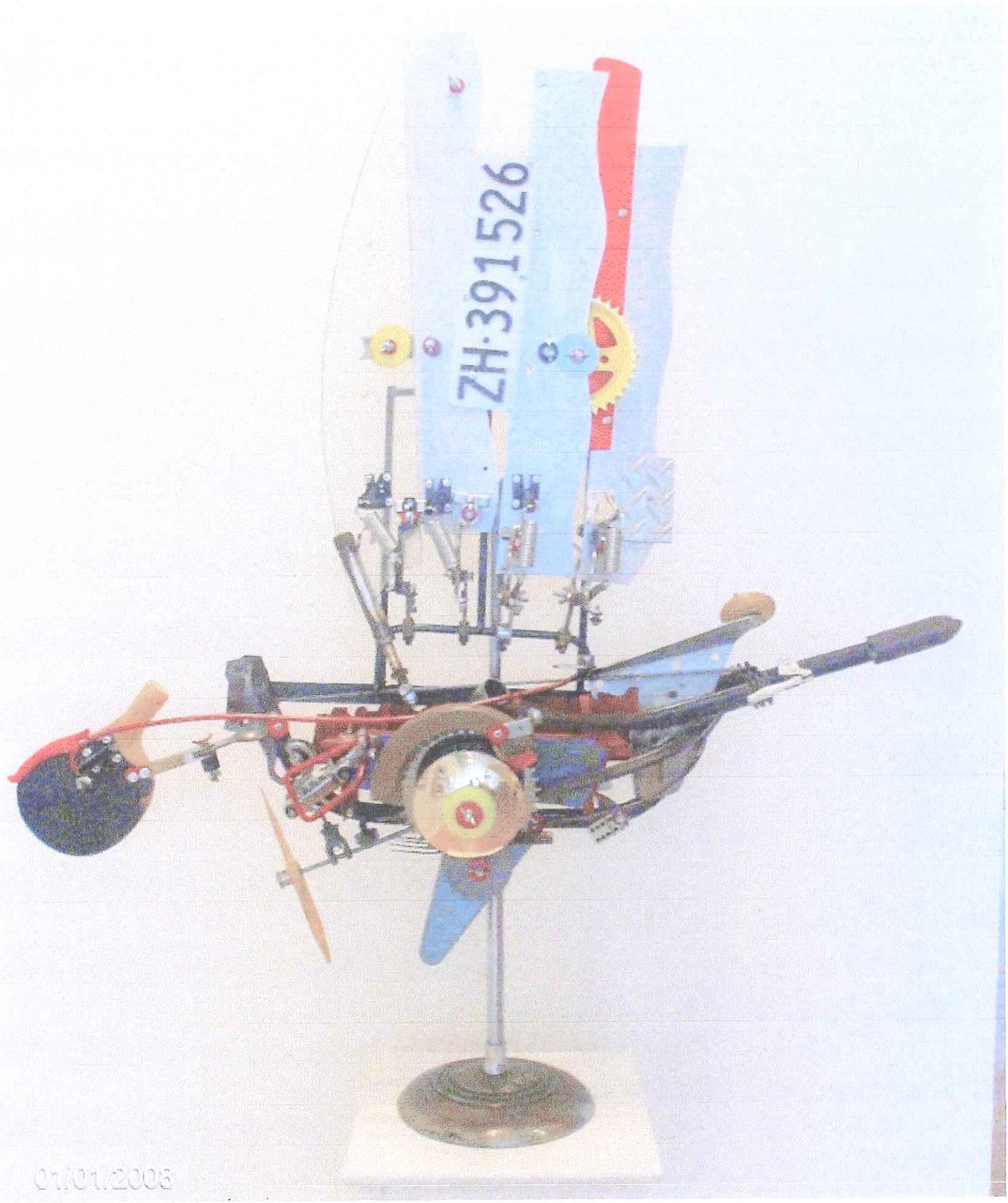












ZH-391526

01/01/2008





11/06/2007



11/06/2007

BIKE MILE POST

- + 4 FOUND BIKES - 16" - 23" SIZE
 - + 4 MILEAGE SIGNS
 - + 12 FT. Ø 3" (SCH. 40) 3" STEEL PIPE POST
 - + 4 FT. CEMENT FOOTING (INSTALLED)
- + \$2,300.00

Rick DeTroyer
Original proposal

