Greetings FM Team,

Facilities Management is responsible for chairing the University Public Art Committee (UPAC), which helps to facilitate the experience of public art at CSU. This committee is involved in the process from beginning to end, including: the call for art, reviewing proposals, and selection; evaluating materials for durability and longevity; understanding the best location for safe access, circulation, utilities, etc.; coordination with designers, project managers, and contractors in installation and signage; and more.

Some of our public art is funded through the Colorado Art in Public Places Program, which allocates one-percent (1%) of capital construction funds for new or renovated state buildings. (Learn more information about this program by visiting the Colorado Creative Industries overview of the Art in Public Places Program.) There is state-funded art that you may already be familiar with: Veil made with acrylic, glass, and stainless steel, southeast of the AZ building; Earth’s Blanket, acrylic spheres that light up in the evening, at the Chemistry Research plaza; and Signal Sequence made of granite stones, east of MRB along the Center Ave Plaza.

Today I wanted to share about FM’s facilitation of public art because UPAC, the CSU Native American Advisory Council, and the College of Agricultural Sciences are hosting a reception for renowned artist Roxanne Swentzell on November 3. This is in celebration of the recently installed public art on the northside of the Nutrien Agricultural Sciences building. Fittingly, the reception for Swentzell, a Santa Clara Tewa Native American artist, falls at the beginning of Native American Heritage Month in November. As mentioned on her webpage, “Though steeped in her own culture, Swentzell’s work demonstrates an astounding universality, speaking to people of all cultures.” The sculpture, Good Earth, depicts a human form breathing in the scent of soil as a reminder of our basic connection with the earth. Swentzell describes it as representing the human relationship to agriculture throughout the ages, incorporating a universal message to all races and genders.
In addition to the Nutrien building, locally you can find Swentzell’s art at the CSU Gregory Allicar Museum of Art (located at the University Center for the Arts on Remington) and at the Denver Art Museum. Nationally, she has had art exhibited at the National Museum of the American Indian Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. and many other locations.

Many FM employees are involved in supporting the installation, maintenance, and inventory for CSU’s public art. I encourage folks to visit Good Earth, as well as another recent installation at Johnson Family Equine Hospital called Double Equus. Also, please view the list of events for Native American Heritage Month through the CSU Native American Cultural Center.

Best,

Tom Satterly, P.E.
AVP for Facilities Management

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