

25 sculptures for art walk are

IN PLACE

Works to remain until April 2012

By Dan Linehan

dlinehan@mankatofreepress.com

MANKATO — There's a torsional great Dane trying to scratch that unreachable itch, a bronze cast of Jesus' hands that evokes Christian themes of cleansing and redemption and a partially taped-together sculpture of bicycle parts.

Tami Paulsen, one of two lead organizers for the CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour, said the committee that chose the works sought diversity in both medium and appearance.

The 25 sculptures installed Saturday morning in downtown Mankato and North Mankato aim to make the city centers more of a destination.

This sculpture walk, like others, works on a loaner system: The pieces will remain until April, when they'll be taken down and returned to the artists. All but one of the sculptures installed here — an abstract piece of a ribbon twisting around itself called "Harmony (Knot # 4)" — were first displayed elsewhere.

The public gets to vote for its favorite sculpture, and the program will buy the top votegetter. There's \$15,000 set aside for that task. If the sculpture is valued at less, it will be bought at its value. If it's worth

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Photos by Pat Christman

Above: Sculptor Karen Crain, of Littleton, Colo., watched Saturday as North Mankato city worker Jerry Olson completed the installation of her sculpture, "Spirit of Energy," on the CityArt Walking Sculpture Tour.

Left: Volunteers (from left) John Ganey, Derek Liebertz, and Darold Schaefer install "Poco a Poco."

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more, the artists have agreed ahead of time to stick to the \$15,000 limit if they win.

New sculptures will be installed in May 2012, and the voting will begin again.

After his sculpture of a perching red-tailed hawk was installed at the corner of E. Walnut and Second streets, its creator, Judd Nelson of Wayzata, explains one reason why sculpture walks appeal to artists.

"It's kind of a lonely business," he says, "working in your studios by yourself.

"Here, it's a whole brotherhood of metal people," Nelson said.

Each sculpture includes a placard explaining it, but artist Sherri Treeby from Aberdeen, S.D., was eager to elaborate on her White Buffalo Calf Woman. She said it's based on a 2,000-year-old Sioux spiritual story about a woman who gave the tribes their seven sacred ceremonies.

"She, to me, is like the Sioux Jesus," Treeby said of her work, placed outside the Verizon Wireless Center.

She worked with Sioux experts to make the work authentic, and said she was told to make the face less pretty and more of a "severe" countenance.

Thanks to a \$10,000-a-year grant for five years from the Andreas Foundation, organizers say they're planning to run the sculpture walk through 2015. But there's no reason it couldn't continue after that if sponsorships stay strong.

There's plenty of room for expansion in future years, co-head Shannon Robinson said, including local artist sculptures and kids' activities. Robinson said the effort has some funding from the cities of Mankato and North Mankato, but is more than three-fourths privately paid for.