

ART IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1/20/10

How is Public Art different from other art?

The public art that is part of the Art in the Heart of the City exhibition should have several distinguishing characteristics:

- This art is meant to be outdoors, in all sorts and types of weather;
- This art is meant to be touched, inspected, and interacted with by the public. It is not protected by any barrier or device. It is not backyard art. Sometimes the public can be unwittingly rough. This art should be able to withstand such interaction. It should be durable.
- This art is viewed by a broad spectrum of people of all ages, ethnicities, and races. As such, it should be suitable for viewing by such a diverse group of people. Unlike a museum where people choose to enter, the public realm is open, free, and accessible to all.
- This art must be physically safe for the public. Sharp and protruding edges can be dangerous to passersby.

What does Public Art do for our community?

We choose to host an eclectic show representing a broad continuum of mediums for two reasons:

- We want to expose the public to the incredible range and scope of public art.
- We want to challenge people to experience art in their daily lives or in their visits to our community.
- Public art enlivens and enriches our environment.

Why do a temporary show?

Each year we invite artist to showcase their work in Art in the Heart of the City on a temporary basis. This enables us to constantly change the environment, to test new ideas and concepts, and to feature different pieces on an annual basis. People wait with expectation for the new show, to see what pieces will be at the focal center of our community for the ensuing six months. If people truly love a piece, effort is made to secure it for permanent status. Otherwise, the pieces change and a show is mounted, offering exposure to new artists and new art to an eager public.

Is there a permanent collection of Public Art?

The Downtown Ithaca Alliance, private donors, and the City of Ithaca (through its Public Art Commission) work together to acquire permanent pieces for the downtown. We average an acquisition per year, although there are no assurances that a piece will be acquired from any annual show.

Are Art in the Heart pieces for sale?

Unless otherwise advised, all pieces in the temporary annual exhibition are available for sale. Each year one or more pieces have been sold. The Art in the Heart program takes a 15% commission on all sold pieces.