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Greenwood beautifying Polk Hill Trail with artwork

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Photos:



Cecilia Lueza's sculpture "Landing" will be installed in Greenwood by the end of April. PHOTO SUBMITTED

By the end of this month, three large sculptures will be in place along the Polk Hill Trail in Greenwood

A long-limbed person shaped out of rusted iron will appear to be trudging down the road, while a geometric animal settles along the side of the road.

A bright orange and yellow figure will seem to be riding on a gust of wind.

The three works of art will be part of a public project in Greenwood designed to beautify trails through the city. The Greater Greenwood Arts Council recruited artists from around the

country to submit ideas and chose three to be installed on the stretch of trail just east of Craig Park.

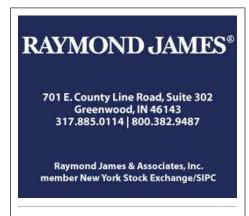
The selected sculptures are John Merigian's "Strider II," Cecilia Lueza's "Landing," and "Point Defiance" by Beth Nybeck.

"Art on the Trailways" will be on display for the next two years, after which local organizers could bring in new sculptures.

The hope is that the works draw attention to the arts and encourage people to pay more attention to the creative spirit in Greenwood, said Angela Stelljes, the project's facilitator.

"Art on the Trailways" was a project envisioned by the Greater Greenwood Arts Council and the Greenwood parks department. The hope was to increase the area's reputation as an artist-friendly community.

They also wanted to invigorate the stretch of trail along Smith Valley Road. Currently, the popular trail doesn't really feature anything for people to look at, Stelljes said.



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Organizers put out a nationwide call to artists asking for submissions. With the help of a \$2,500 grant and corporate sponsorship, the arts council was able to lease the artwork for \$3,000 each.

Each artist brings a different feel and theme to the pieces, Stelljes said.

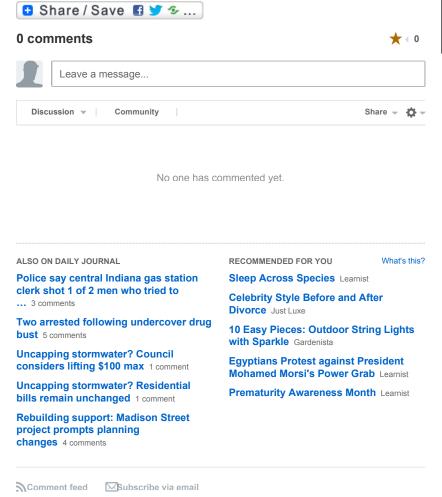
Merigian, a Michigan sculptor working in weathered Corten steel, focuses his artwork on the relationships and connections people share between each other. His "Strider II" is part of a larger series looking at how people relate.

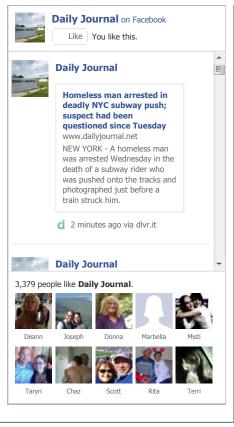
This will the second Indianapolis area art installation Lueza has completed in the past year. The Florida-based artist completed a mural before the start of the Super Bowl for the "46 for XLVI" exhibit.

"Landing" is designed to be a vibrant and colorful contrast to the other, simpler pieces installed on the trail.

Nybeck's "Point Defiance," featuring a large creature balanced on a central point, is meant to comment on the chaos of the world and the struggle to balance it all.

Parks department workers will install the pieces over the next three weeks, Stelljes said. A opening celebration to unveil the work will be April 28.





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