

# Art On Campus

By Linsey Lubinus

Photos by Rachel Marek

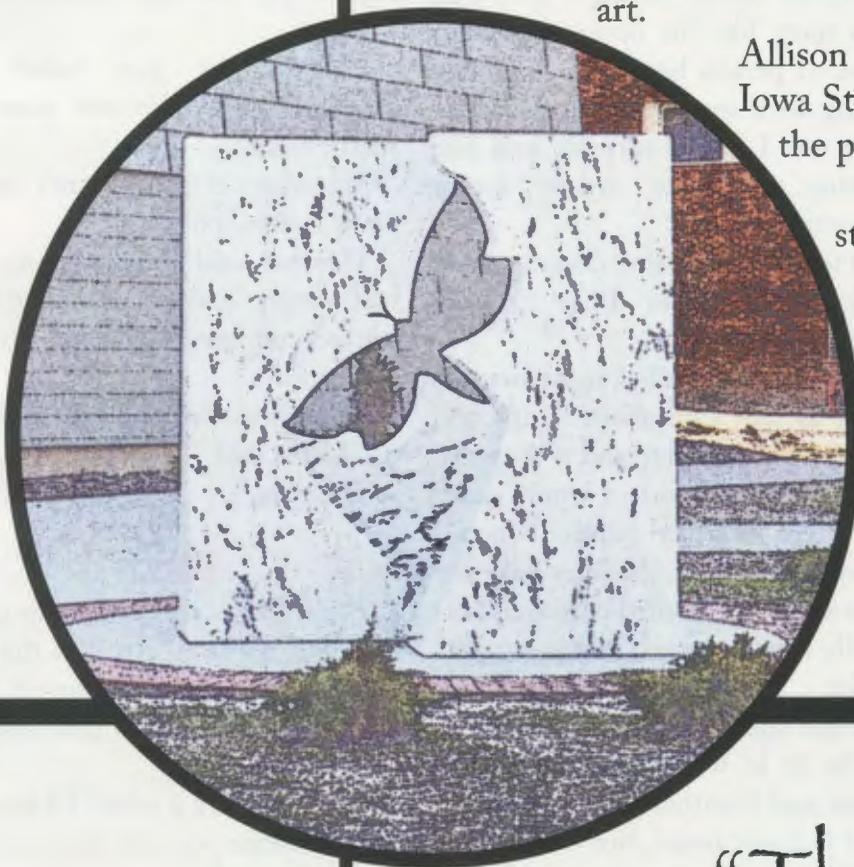
You saw it one day while were riding the bus; three chunks of marble sporadically sitting in a patch of disturbed earth left from the Coover renovations. But as the bus continued to roll along, the pieces of the marble shifted in your perspective, their cutout spaces aligned and all of a sudden, you discover the shape of a moth. The marble insect deconstructs itself as quickly as it came, the bus turning onto Osborn and continuing down the street.

“The Moth” by artist Mac Adams is just one piece of the Art on Campus collection, made possible by the Iowa Art in State Buildings legislation, which requires 0.5 percent of funds allocated to construction or remodeling a state building be put into public art.

Allison Juull, program coordinator of the Iowa State University Museum, described the process of art selection.

“A committee [is] formed of faculty, staff, students... a committee could really be anybody,” Juull said. “They come up with a philosophy that describes how they want their public art for this building to reflect X, Y, Z.”

The committee receives and reviews proposals from local artists, narrows their choices down and



“The Moth”  
Mac Adams

# “Whirlwind”

Andrea Myklebust  
and Stanton Sears

chooses one artist who is then in charge of the creation and installation of the art.

“The Moth” is a result of the Coover remodeling, and was installed last year. Other pieces of campus art, such as the first real piece of art at Iowa State, Christian Peterson’s drinking cow mural in the Food Sciences building, relates the subject of the art to the building. “The Moth” also relates to Coover’s computer (engineering) focus. In literature about “The Moth”, it tells the story of how a moth flew into a computer and made it malfunction, becoming the first literal “bug” in the computer system world.

Another art on campus debut this year is a long, bronze, rope-looking shape at the new entrance on the south side of the Memorial Union. Offspring of the Memorial Union renovations and installed in 2008, the bronze cyclone is called “Whirlwind” by Andrea Myklebust and Stanton Sears, and rolls casually across a bulbous bronze base that represents the Iowa countryside.

The piece has obvious links to ISU’s Cyclone mascot, but also has other campus symbolism. Near the top of the sculpture are pieces of the Iowa State identity including two swans in flight and a gold star (representing the Memorial Union).

“I think they went through all the legend and lore [of ISU] and picked interesting things that would pertain to both the Memorial Union and just life at Iowa State in general,” Juull said.

The most recent piece of art installed on campus was a glass mural at the ISU Dairy Farm called “River of Milk” by Michaela Mahady—the same artist who did the LeBaron Hall newest addition glass etching mural.

“She’s actually an architect by training and she does these wonderful works of glass,” Juull said. “[“River of Milk”] depicts the milking process and very much mirrors what Christian Peterson did in that very first history of dairying work of art.”

As two new buildings go up on campus, you can be sure at least 0.5 percent of the construction budget will go into more art. A new chemistry building is in the works and the field outside of Design has the bones of their new structure going up now.

“I know they selected an artist for chemistry, but I’m not sure if that’s been publicized yet,” Juull said. “[The new art pieces are] things to keep an eye out for, for sure.”

