

Sculpture

Guy J. Bellaver

Title: *Self-Expression*

Concept Statement:

Self-Expression would be a sculpture in Mr. Bellaver's *Quarks* Series, a collection of seventeen sculptures begun in 2007, exploring energy in all its forms. Each piece (inspired by images from collisions at Fermilab's Tevatron Particle Accelerator which were captured by a very high resolution camera) explores the energy of mass that is exploding and creating disintegrating arcs. The fiberglass segments represent mass, and the rod represents that mass exploding from one area into another. This sculpture series continues the artist's career-long exploration of the relationship of positive to negative space, and the energy of their interaction.

The color palette of this piece is a bright, joyful blue. This vibrant color allows the sculpture to clearly differentiate and utilize both its positive and negative spaces, and to add color to the bridge's busy urban environment. While *Self-Expression* is another piece in the *Quarks* Series, it is more organic, constructed with less rod and more mass to suggest the vastness of the Fox River flowing under it, and man's passage by it. That mass also suggests other forms of art, such as dance step and a musical note.

Description of Proposed Work

Self-Expression would be constructed using a ¾" steel rod superstructure, inlaid with layers of marine grade fiberglass, covered with a smooth exterior coating. The fiberglass segments would be blue and the rod would be black. Both the rod and the fiberglass superstructure would be painted with an Isophthalic Polyester Gel Coat, which is UV resistant, blister resistant, weatherable and compatible with underwater and marine applications.

The sculpture would be 8' H x 3' W x 2.5' D. The ratio of the maquette's dimensions to the proposed sculpture are 1" equals 6".

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Artist's Statements (2 pages):

Self-Expression:

I followed a very “unlinear” route to art – through work, the Army, and college. This sculpture design reflects this unlinear journey of self-expression through art, as well as my perceptions of the City of Batavia.

As a child, I loved to draw and paint by numbers. I was also interested in nature and in constructing things. The nature and construction stuff was okay with my parents, but my interest in art was discouraged, as they saw no future in it. But art remained a part of my life – all during that unlinear route. And I found that unquenchable interest was simply the need to express myself through art, which became the creation of sculptures when I was in my twenties.

Self-Expression is part of the *Quarks* series because all of the Quarks sculptures look very different, depending upon how and where you're viewing them. Each side can look almost like a completely different sculpture – just like self-expression is different depending upon the “self”. I also chose the Quarks series because the rod to mass design represents energy, and *Self-Expression* speaks to the energy, creativity, history, and diversity of people and interests in the City of Batavia. As its title suggests, the sculpture is also about art as my personal form of self-expression. Expressing myself through art has always been about color, energy, diversity, and motion.

General Artist Statement:

In the 40 years that I have been a professional sculptor, I have worked in many media, including stone, wood, fiberglass, and metal. My work over nearly four decades is eclectic, but shares a theme or style that is both organic and technical. Today, it is a bit less about shapes and more about energy.

My most recent work has been in metals such as stainless steel and bronze, and mixed media (including stainless steel and glass, and painted fiberglass and steel rod), and I've started to explore those media through kinetic work. My sculptures range from "tabletop" to monumental pieces over 18 feet tall. I have always been fascinated by the relationship of positive to negative space – the energy of their interaction, and my art. In fact, the relationship of art to the STEM disciplines has informed my artwork since my very first, extremely geometric stone sculptures. My work is in civic, corporate, residential, and university settings – both commissioned and spec. I take pride in working effectively with all of those involved in commissioned work to achieve a piece that fulfills an artistic vision.

I followed a very "unlinear" route to art – through work, the Army, and college. The journey was an experience – every day spent as an artist has been a joy.