

“Her Grace and The Motley” By Herb Eaton M.F.A.

Sculpture proposal for Batavia, Illinois bridge

The sculpture is a two-figure and stage narrative that is an allegory of the Arts. The two figures and their accouterments will be bronze approximately four feet tall. The stage is a dividing curtain of stainless steel approximately nine feet tall.

This offering is part of continuing variations on themes and materials I have been pursuing for several decades; the coupling of a diaphanously gowned and veiled woman with a man exhibiting attributes implying a distracted even crazy behavior, and wearing a mask. These figures, named **He & She**, have been portrayed on stage-like settings in my paintings, drawings, and sculpture to explore ideas about the rituals of mating, the mystery of male/female relationships, and frequently as images of a storied reflection on dance and music. The figures (my characters **He & She**) have healthy bodies and probably attractive facial features but are hidden in the characters they perform, their expressions are based on posture and props.

The stage is a slice-of-life setting up two sides of the Arts. That which is seen and experienced by an audience, the grace and wonder; and that which is the practice of all artists, the motley clothes and disheveled stuff awaiting transformation. The stainless curtain is divided and forms a sculptural presence reflecting the sky and provides a sense of glory for the characters.

My story for this display of my characters is that **She** performs a dance or sings an aria in flowing grace for the audience she faces, mysterious in her veil but open in her posture. Apparently someone likes her, there is a rose on the stage. **She** is responding to the sound of a simple tin flute played backstage by **He**. Nonchalant and motley dressed with a clown mask and a circus-band hat he leans on a chair in the privacy of his books, juggling balls, bottle of wine, brushes and other props.

The idea is all of the Arts, and both sides of the curtain; the private work and practice, and the public enlightenment and joy.

Herb Eaton M.F.A.

411 N. Center Bloomington, Il 61701

309-828-1575 eaton1herb@gmail.com www.eatonstudiogallery.com

Herb Eaton M.F.A. sculptor, painter, draughtsman, writer.

For 40 years, I have created and designed for myself, family, friends, and the community. I am a guy who likes to make things; often utilitarian things....I also make art and music. My paintings, sculpture, and drawings reflect the scenes, stages, and music that are emotionally important to me as they are the visual context of my life.

My paintings and sculpture are figurative and narrative, usually about two characters named He & She, a nude male and a diaphanously gowned female. Painting scenes along the river and thickets, the woods and fields, and theatrical and music settings are the contexts for my characters. I want the characters and the viewer of my art to experience the river, woods, fields, gardens, circus, picnics and music. The nature settings and music I paint can be experienced if one takes the time to look, listen, and feel.

I am presently publishing a serial blog, anachronisticnarchists.com. It is a fictional compilation of words and images about developing a reunion for modern and historical *enfant terrible* artistics and an art museum for them in a old circus tent on the prairie.

Born 1949 in Peoria, IL. 1984 MFA sculpture and drawing Illinois State University, 1974 BS Illinois State University, 1970 AA in Music and Theater Illinois Central College. Carpenter, instructor, museum designer, preparator, toy designer and manufacturer, co-founder Children's Discovery Museum, musician. Art work in public collections of Chugai-Upjohn Corporations, Sun Capital, the State of Illinois, St. Josephs Hospital, Bromenn Medical Center, Town Of Normal, Il. Asaigawa Hokkaido, Japan and private collections locally and abroad.

**Herb Eaton 411. N. Center Bloomington, Il 61701
309-828-1575
eaton1herb@gmail.com**