

Four Large-Scale Sculptures Complement the Denver Art Museum's Frederic C. Hamilton Building

Lanny and Sharon Martin Plaza named in honor of Museum trustee

Denver – In August 2006, the Denver Art Museum announced a \$5 million gift from trustee J. Landis Martin and his wife Sharon to fund a full landscaping program related to the Museum's Frederic C. Hamilton Building expansion. The 75,000-square-foot pedestrian area was named the Lanny and Sharon Martin Plaza in honor of their generous contribution and commitment to the Museum.

Designed by architect Daniel Libeskind, Martin Plaza forms a new civic and cultural space within the city. It provides a pedestrian connection between the Golden Triangle neighborhood and Civic Center Park, while creating a central gathering point for visitors to the cultural complex and adjacent retail sector. Two monumental sculptures are sited on Martin Plaza, as well as seating, colored concrete paving with trees and built-in planters. Set between the titanium-clad Frederic C. Hamilton Building and the seven-story glass and zinc Museum Residences, also designed by Libeskind, Martin Plaza is a key asset within the Civic Center Cultural Complex.

"This extraordinary project deserves a thoughtful, exciting outdoor space that allows visitors to enjoy the incredible architectural experience that these buildings provide," said Martin. "I am honored to be a part of this development."

Martin Plaza features the monumental sculptures *Big Sweep* by Coosje van Bruggen and Claes Oldenburg and *Denver Monoliths* by Beverly Pepper. *Scottish Angus Cow and Calf* by Dan Ostermiller is located just south of the Hamilton Building. All three sculptures range in height from 13 to 40 feet. Inside the Hamilton Building, a large-scale installation entitled *ENGI* by artist Tatsuo Miyajima is located in the El Pomar Grand Atrium.

Big Sweep, a 35-foot broom and dustpan made of painted metal, is located on the south side of 13th Avenue at the base of the "prow" of the Libeskind-designed Hamilton Building. Completed in 2004, *Big Sweep* was commissioned by the Museum in 1999 with support from multiple donors.

Denver Monoliths by Beverly Pepper was commissioned in 2006 with support from a private donor. This abstract, aggregate sculpture—measuring 40 feet high and 12-1/2 feet in diameter—is one of her most spectacular public sculptures anywhere. The work is located to the east of the Hamilton Building opposite *Big Sweep*, near the northwest entrance of the Cultural Complex parking garage.

"The art community has eagerly awaited the arrival of these new works sited around the campus," said Dianne Vanderlip, Denver Art Museum curator emeritus of modern and contemporary art. "They will contribute greatly to Denver's offerings of important large-scale outdoor art."

In Miyajima's *ENGI*, nearly 80 mirrored discs, flashing the numerals one through nine in ascending or descending order, are displayed throughout the entrance of the Hamilton Building. The artist invited a select number of Denver citizens to collaborate on the project. Their role was to determine the speed at which the single numbers would appear and be replaced by the next.

Ostermiller's *Scottish Angus Cow and Calf* is a 2006 gift of businessman Leo Hindery, who originally commissioned the Colorado artist to sculpt the bronze pair in 2001 for his ranch near Larkspur. In addition to the sculpture itself, Hindery has pledged \$1 million for its installation and care. *Cow and Calf*, Ostermiller's largest bronze sculpture, is located in the newly landscaped Hindery Family Park, on the south side of the Hamilton Building along 12th Avenue.

"Ostermiller carries forward into our time the noble tradition of *animalier* art from the 19th century and before, yet does it on a grand scale," said Peter Hassrick, director of the Institute of Western American Art at the DAM. "This monolithic bronze celebrates his talent as a sculptor and the cattle culture of Colorado, on which Denver's economy and society were partly based for many generations."

Since its founding in 1893, the Denver Art Museum has amassed over 60,000 works of art, the largest and most comprehensive collection of world art between Chicago and the West Coast. Internationally known for its holdings of American Indian art, the museum has also assembled an extensive group of pre-Columbian and Spanish Colonial art now considered one of the finest anywhere. Other areas of concentration are painting and sculpture, architecture, design and graphics, modern and contemporary, African, Asian, Oceanic, Western American and textile art.

The Denver Art Museum is located on 13th Avenue between Broadway and Bannock Streets in downtown Denver. Open Tuesday-Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday noon-5 p.m.; closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Admission for Colorado residents: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students, \$3 for visitors 6-18, free for children under 6. Admission for non-Colorado residents: \$13 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, \$5 for visitors 6-18, free for children under 6. General admission is free on the first Saturday of each month. Free First Saturdays are sponsored by Target, and made possible by the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. The Cultural Complex Garage is open; enter from 12th Avenue between Broadway and Bannock or check the DAM websites for up-to-date parking information. For more information, visit www.denverartmuseum.org or call 720-865-5000.

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