

Welcome to the Neighborhood Sculpture Walk!

April 4, 2006

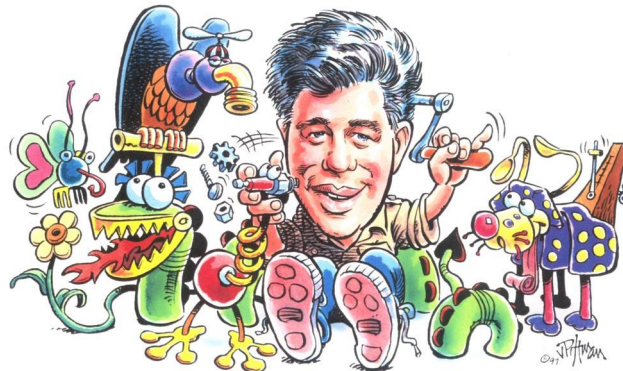
I'm the neighborhood sculptor, Joel Haas. I live at 3215 Merriman Ave.

To demonstrate art in the garden can be something more than cement bunnies, I have placed a variety of my steel sculptures in neighbors' yards along Merriman and Bedford Ave.'s; Furches, Taylor, and Ruffin St's.

I think it's a good example to neighborhood kids that being an artist is a viable career choice. I hope to inspire my neighbors, or you, the viewer, to try your own hand at making sculpture for your garden. Finally, maybe other sculptors will be inspired to set up sculpture walks in their neighborhoods (if they don't live in Cary).

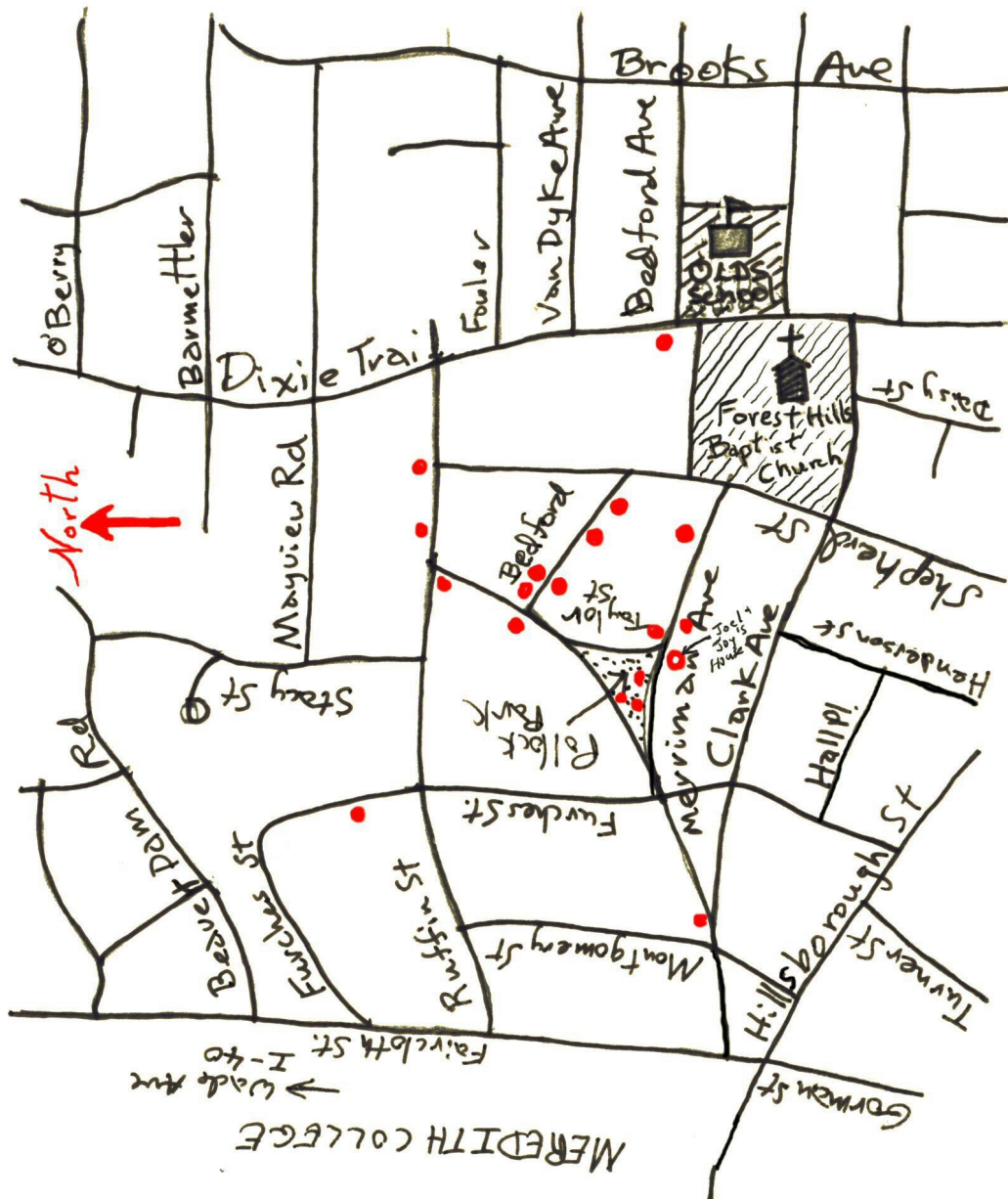
The Answers to a Few Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) I create my work by welding steel scrap together and painting it. Make a game of trying to guess what I used.
- 2) Yes! The art work is for sale--or you can commission me to create a sculpture specifically for you.
- 3) No problem, really, I just wash them with liquid soap and a soft sponge twice a year.
- 4) Well, there's always a first time, but I have never had anybody steal or vandalize my work.
- 5) Because I grew up in this neighborhood and the older people just shake their heads and mutter knowingly, "Well, you know his parents were that way, too..."
- 6) By contacting me and just asking me to put a sculpture in your garden, OR by making one yourself and asking me to include it on the sculpture walk list.
- 7) Check out the Neighborhood Sculpture Walk website at www.sculpturewalk.org or Write to joel@joelhaasstudio.com
- 8) Joel and Joy Haas
3215 Merriman Ave.
Raleigh, NC 27607 828-8836 joel@joelhaasstudio.com
website www.joelhaasstudio.com
(The house on Merriman where Taylor comes into Merriman from the north)



The sculptures

People believe they need a lot of money to own original art. Generally, people actually have enough money to buy art, but not enough courage. That said, I would like to thank my neighbors for possessing the graciousness and self confidence to display my work in their gardens. Dots show approx. sculpture locations.



200 Taylor St. (Charlie and Hillary Hart)

PINK DANCE one of my early abstracts, it is done in what art historians call Russian Constructivism style, a style that blossomed in the early 1920s in (where else?) Russia before Stalin seized power and most of the major modern Russian artists fled to Paris.

215 Taylor St. (Ted and Rena Stevenson)

PINK FLAMINGO the first whimsical steel creature I made (1992). He looks sort of nerdy and surprised. Ted Stevenson's father worked at K&L Scrap Yard where I found the wheel rim, springs, shovel and other parts to make THE PINK FLAMINGO. Shrinks are right. Deal with your old junk, or it will come back to haunt you in unexpected ways!

3207 Bedford Ave. (Joe and Terye Sloane)

MARY KAY PINK GARDEN ROCKET

Takes off in a cloud of perfume to the strains of "Pink Cadillac" I hope Homeland Security doesn't take spy satellite pictures of the neighborhood and make me explain this to Attorney Gen. John Ashcroft. I'll claim it's the work of militant gay Taliban activists.

3218 Bedford Ave. (Steve and Jane Chiles)

THE PUNK STEGOSAURUS— This punk dinosaur with shocking blue body and a pink hair style is made from an old hot water heater; a Harley Davidson gas tank for a head and shovel for a jaw. The scales on the back are made of sheet metal textured with welding spatter. Can you guess the other parts? Do you think this is the sort of dino that would hop around singing "I love you, you love me"?

3220 Bedford Ave. (Rick and Deborah)

BLUE NIGHTFALL—Scrap from mechanical street sweepers and an old TV satellite dish was used to create this abstract sculpture. I like the peaceful effect of the design. Yes, you could say those are martini glasses rising in front of the sunset in the design!

307 Taylor St. (George and Emilia Huntley)

PURPLE WITCH

How do we know she's a witch? Well, she's thinner than you are; richer; her kids all have full scholarships to Ivy League Schools; her husband always buys her the right jewelry; her business tripled in the past three years; she's been elected head of her coven, and her house always looks better than yours!

3203 Bedford Ave. (Joe and Susan Staggers)

MADONNA DINO—THE "TIRE"-O- DACTYLE --How can you tell it's a "tire"-o-dactyle? Two ways: there is a tyro "tire"-o-dactyle in the nest and the nest is made of truck tires! Okay. You don't get the joke—just enjoy the baby and the mother. Notice there is an unhatched egg in the nest, too!

3201 Bedford Ave. (David Lassiter)

DANCING MEN—an early abstract made from heavy steel parts used to make street sweepers. David has lived in the neighborhood his whole life, too, and I knew him to be an easy going guy, so I walked up to him one Sunday afternoon and said, “Hey, let’s go set up large dinosaurs in your neighbors’ yards!” He said, “Sure!” and wound up with an abstract in his own yard. Notice that, like PINK DANCE, this abstract does well being a bright color against a background of brick and dark green. Too many people try to match their sculptures’ colors with their garden when they should be contrasting the colors.

3208 Merriman Ave. (Ben and Heather Pace)

THE YELLOW BUG FLYING MACHINE—the last in a series I built called “What If Bugs Had Been Crossbred With First World War Aeroplanes???!?” When I was a kid, I built model WWI airplanes and hung them from my bedroom ceiling. Early flying machines look so whimsical and fantastical anyway, that my own should not seem so far fetched.

3215 Merriman Ave. (Joel and Joy Haas)

MAN IN THE MOON POURS OUT THE MILKY WAY WITH THE BIG DIPPER

The Moon’s made in hand forged steel, paint, scrap, and a hint of green cheese; the stars are scrap steel and metal balls from a banister supply company. Saturn looks a little alarmed at all the goings on—the hair he’s combed over his bald spot is made of spoon handles, as are his ears.

SANTA AND THE EIGHT TINY RIMDEER

Made from wheel barrow wheels and a wheel barrow for a sleigh, these have got to be RIMdeer. Their heads are bicycle forks, their hind legs, hay thatching hooks from a tractor, and tails made of trowel handles. The eyes and hooves are lug nuts. Santa is a freon can with a grain scoop for a head, funnel for a cap, small bulldozer teeth for shoes, and electric motor parts for beard and lace trim. There are number of other sculptures in my front and rear gardens. Feel free to explore them (with tightly leashed dogs and small children!)

THE BLAME DIAL

Who cares what time it is? We just need to know who to point the finger at. That’s why there are no hours listed on this dial. Recently divorced ladies are encouraged to commission special dials that say HIM, HIM, HIM, HIM.

(VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO WALK THROUGH THE HAAS’ BACK GARDEN TO SEE EVEN MORE ARTWORK AND PLANTS)

3004 Ruffin St (Bill Smith and Nancy Whelchel)

PURPLE WOZZLE OFFERING KISS BLOSSOM FLOWERS

THE WOZZLE is a whimsical beast offering kissing lips shaped flowers to passersby. The name is taken from Winnie the Pooh books read to me as a child. Remember, Pooh and Piglet go hunting for wozzles and heffalumps with no idea of what either looks like? Now we know, even if they don’t!

3008-B (John and Ann O'Neal)

THE PARTY FLAG AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS—John O'Neal's sculpture is not always visible. But when it is---OH BOY!!! He has created a huge American Flag in lights, which he hoists high into the oaks above his house on special occasions such as July 4th and whenever he's having a party. He'll turn it on at night and it's spectacular!

Even more amazing are his Christmas Lights—they are higher, longer, visible, and more unusual than any others I have seen. They are strung waaaaay up in the oaks along the block, almost as if a giant fly fisherman had cast long lines of lights across the sky.

305 Furches St. (Patricia Garrett and Michael Schulman)

THE GUARD BUG

This is the first yard art in the neighborhood I did. The owners have long been patrons of my work and the Guard Bug was the second piece they bought. He was created just as I was starting to let my whimsy out to roam rampant through the neighborhood.

3512 Clark Ave. (George and Pam Clark)

GOLD ROCKET—I wanted to do a piece conveying motion and energy, and, as an additional challenge, I wanted to do it working in a horizontal design rather than the more traditional vertical. Scrap from mechanical street sweepers and TV satellite dishes was used. I like using the industrial gold colored coating on a lot of my pieces as it both contrasts and compliments backgrounds in the garden—leafy green and brick red.

BLUE SAILBOAT BENCH in POLLOCK PLACE PARK

Between Pollock Place, Taylor St, and Merriman Avenue

This children's playground results from the tenacious vision of Amy Baker and other neighborhood parents who pulled together to build this playground and neighborhood meeting place on city property. Neighborhood residents are underwriting the creation of custom made benches, a bulletin board, and trash cans. This is also the location of the annual (over 35 years now) neighborhood picnic. I am honored to be a part of it. The first bench I've built, shaped like a sailboat, seats eight parents --or about a dozen small, limitless imaginations.

ARMADILLO BENCH in POLLACK PLACE PARK

This creature has no intention of being road kill. In fact, this is not an armadillo at all. This is ARMAZILLA who can cross any road he want to without fear. He probably escaped from the same C grade horror movie from the late 1950s in which atomic experiments in the Nevada desert create Giant Ants, Giant Spiders, etc. that eventually come to threaten Los Angeles. Appropriately placed by the sand box and sponsored by The Armadillo Grill.

AIRPORT BENCH in POLLACK PLACE PARK

When I was child, the Raleigh Airport was south of town where US 401 and US 70 split. I still remember my grandfather taking me by there to watch the plane take off and land. Of course there were no high mountains in the background then, but I drew some in then and have drawn them in again now. Two extra clear coats of paint protect the runway, so you can use your small toy planes to take and land on the seat/airfield.

3213 Merriman Ave. (Laurence and Cheryl Lynn)

RED SKELETON OVERDOES IT ON A NORDIC TRACK---Let this be a lesson to you about getting a little too obsessive-compulsive about your exercise routine. In my opinion, this is a tremendously good argument for healthful side effects of eating more brownies. Actually, the Lynn's Nordic Track had survived FIVE yard sales AND the thrift store wouldn't even let Larry and me put it in their dumpster! --- so, incorporating it into artwork was the only option left!

209 Dixie Trail (Ed and Stephanie Gibson)

ED'S ROTATING SHOW OF STONE SCULPTURES—Ed took up stone carving in the mid 1990s and rotates different carvings he's created to display in his front garden. Most, but not all, of his subject matter is figurative. Leave him a note if you know of any good quality limestone, marble, or alabaster nearby!

He has more pieces to see in his back yard. Look but don't touch! Stone is surprisingly fragile.