

St. Francis Hospital - Interquest Project Update

Meet Wendy Mike, an artist who is taking care to new heights

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Get to know Wendy Mike, a local artist who will have her work on display for patients and caregivers at SFI.

Q. How did you get involved with creating art for SFI?

Wendy: Nancy Noyes of Noyes Art Design, who is coordinating all the art for SFI, learned about my work from Bill Lueck, who is on the SFI Advisory Board. Bill was familiar with my work. He thought my life-sized figurative work would fit well in Centura's new orthopedic hospital, so he told Nancy about me.



Q. Where did you get inspiration for the sculpture(s) that will be installed at the new hospital?

WM: I am besotted with love for the human form, a passion that has been fueled by years of dance and yoga. The materials and methods I use lend themselves well to portraying the body in motion.

The sculptural installation is inspired by the distinctly Colorado sport of rock climbing: specifically, "bouldering," (which is climbing large boulders without the aid of ropes and anchors) in our local Garden of the Gods park. The finished sculptures will consist of five life-sized figures climbing the red-rock painted wall of the fourth floor lobby/waiting room of SFI's surgical suites.

Q. Tell us about the process of

creating the sculpture and working with the model?

WM: It was critical to me that our model actually be an accomplished rock climber, lending authenticity to each posture in portraying the sequence of the climb. Our model Julie, is indeed that rare, right person, and a good thing too because just like rock-climbing, modeling for this piece takes great strength and stamina!

First, I wrapped her in plastic wrap, then in packing tape. We worked in sections: legs, arms, hands and head are each wrapped separately. Using surgical scissors, I cut her out of each section, leaving a floppy, soft "cast" of that particular part of the body. These are pieced together, reinforced and stabilized with many layers of packing tape.

Q. How does art help people heal?

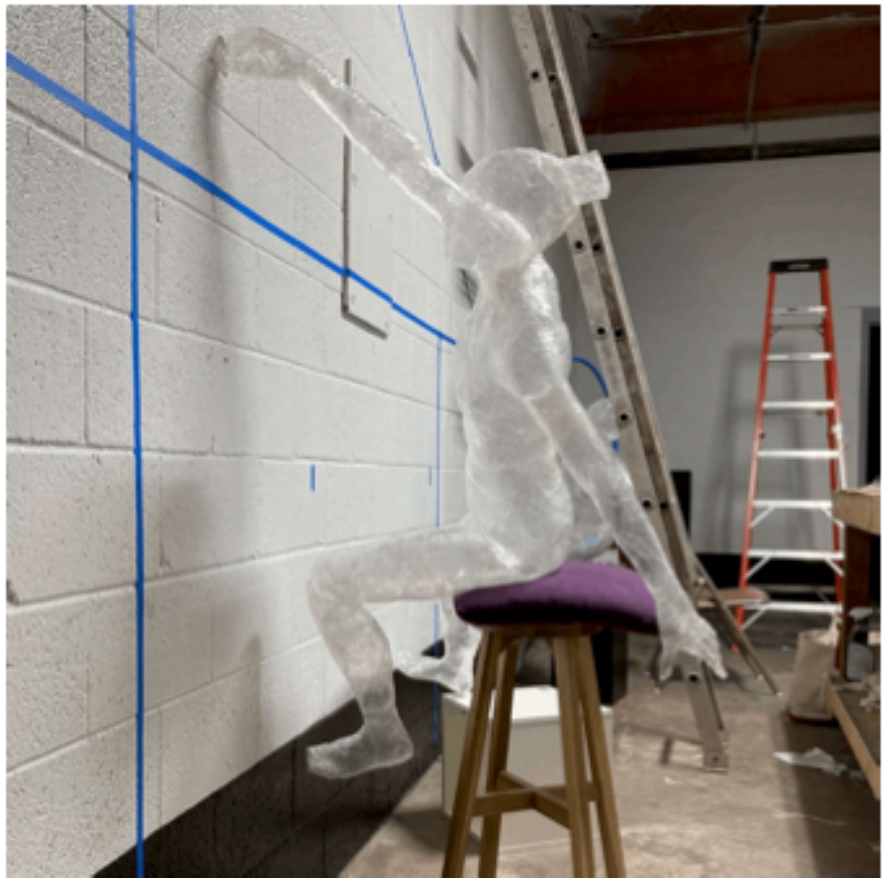
WM: So much of healing also involves that which cannot be expressed in words; it is a distinctly physical and emotional process. Dostoyevsky said, *"Beauty will save the world."* A beautiful and inspiring work of art can be just the thing someone needs to see when they are healing or waiting anxiously for a loved one who is receiving care, providing a much needed, possibly eventranscendent, experienc

Q. What does it mean to you knowing that your art will be seen by our patients and family as they come to SFI for care?

WM: Well it's pretty exciting! I truly love



making art. But the art-making process is not really complete until it is shared. Knowing that my art can make a difference for patients and their families at SFI means everything to me as an artist. Years ago I crafted a phrase that still underlies all I do to this day: "I promise a world illuminated by art, awakening humanity to the rapture of being alive." If my work can inspire even a small part of this, then my promise will be fulfilled.



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COMMENTS (1)

› **Wade Spital**

I've seen Wendy's amazing translucent figures before, they are very beautiful in form and the way they are suspended in space. Can't wait to see this installation.

Posted on 03/07/2023

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