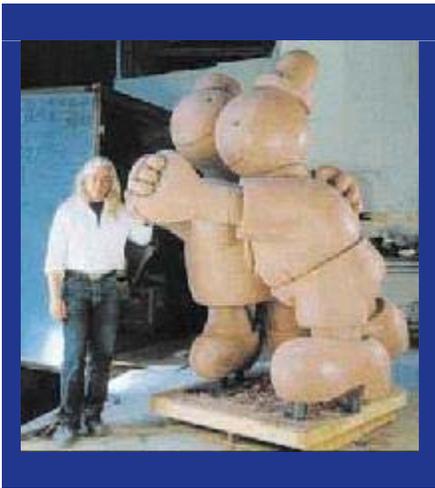


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Otterness, DUMBO Sculptor, Invades Indianapolis

by No Byline (), published online 03-31-2005



Sculptor Tom Otterness, known for those little figures that pop out of sidewalks and platforms, is taking his show on the road, so to speak. Invited to display his works in an outdoor public art exhibit in Indianapolis, they are being packed up this week and will soon be on their way by truck to the midwestern city.

Sponsored by the Indianapolis Cultural Development Commission, the Arts Council of Indianapolis, the Deborah Joy Simon Charitable Trust and Marlborough Gallery, Otterness will have 25 sculptures displayed in public spaces throughout downtown Indianapolis from April 15 through July 31. The exhibition, entitled “Tom Otterness in

Indianapolis,” represents the largest public art exhibition to ever be hosted in the Indiana capital. It also brings Otterness, who is from Kansas but now operates out of DUMBO, back to his Midwestern roots.

Otterness won acclaim for his most recent outdoor exhibit, “Tom Otterness on Broadway,” where his works spanned five miles of the boulevard. The city extended the exhibition for four months due to popular demand.

Many of the same works will travel directly from their Manhattan setting. But six works — Cellular Beaver, Computer Pile, Walking Fish, Tree of Knowledge, Male Tourist and Female Tourist — will come from his studio in DUMBO and will be seen for the first time. Male Tourist and Female Tourist come from Otterness’s personal collection.

“We pursued this blockbuster exhibition for Indianapolis because Tom’s original style and humor makes the art appealing to a wide variety of audiences,” said Greg Charleston of the Arts Council of Indianapolis.

A description of his work states that “his stylized bronze figures combine into sculptural ensembles that explore the range of human experience, from grand ambition to common foibles, plucking imagery and themes from popular culture and subtly transforming them into humorous commentary.” Said Mayor Bart Peterson, “We’re honored to be the only

city besides New York to host the exhibition. There's no better time for it in Indianapolis because this year marks a unique point in our city's growth. Never before have we had so much investment at cultural institutions come to fruition in one year and so many prestigious national arts-related conventions meeting here."

Otterness has just completed a commission for Public Art Puerto Rico, El Coqui Gigante de Las Cavernas del Rio Camuy, in Camuy, Puerto Rico, and will have an exhibition of his work at Marlborough Gallery in Manhattan in the fall.

He recently executed an extensive public commission for Museum Beelden aan Zee in The Netherlands. A New York resident since the 1970s, he has worked from his studio in DUMBO for the past 15 years.

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