

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

Display of 25 bronzes is a golden chance for city

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The verdict is in, and it's a good one: Tom Otterness likes Indianapolis.

So much so that the New York-based artist, who had agreed to exhibit 17 of his bronze sculptures in a public art exhibition opening in April, has decided to expand the exhibition to 25 pieces.

That means "Tom Otterness in Indianapolis" will contain the same number of works as "Tom Otterness on Broadway," a similar exhibition he staged along a five-mile stretch of Broadway in New York City. The Broadway show, which opened in September, closes Sunday — just in time for the pieces to be cleaned, crated and shipped by truck to Indianapolis.

During the past few weeks, Otterness has made two visits to Indianapolis to select sites for each of his sculptures, most of which will be Downtown. Mindy Taylor Ross, who directs the city's public art program, will announce the final site



"Mad Mom" will scold people in front of the Capitol.

For all sculptures and sites, see B6.

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City&State

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Bronzes

■ Some sites, sculptures will help make a social comment.

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selections during a meeting of the Cultural Development Commission today.

Ross says she expects the sculptures to begin appearing at various places as early as April 4, with all of them in place in time for the exhibition's official opening April 15.

"The logistics for doing this are intense," said Ross, who has had to coordinate the project with the artist and Marlborough Gallery, his New York art dealer, as well as with an array of local city and state agencies and some private property owners.

"It's a major undertaking," said Ross. "But we have the support and cooperation of the city administration, which is why we're able to do this in such a tight time frame. Everyone involved has been really helpful because they're excited about the project."

From Otterness' point of view, showing his work in Indianapolis is a different type of challenge from what he faced in New York.

"The Broadway project was narrow work," he said during his most recent visit, "because we were working in a strip that runs down the middle of the street. Here, there's a broader space to work with, which is exciting."

In choosing sites, Otterness often tried to match specific works to specific locations, which sometimes let him make social commentary in the process. For a piece dubbed "Mad Mom," he chose the lawn of the Capitol. And for a piece called "See No Evil," he chose the west-

ern side of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Circle.

Other works were matched to sites on the basis of their themes, including "Large Covered Wagon" in front of the Eiteljorg Museum, "Large Bear" at the Indianapolis Zoo's main entrance and "Gulliver," the largest work in the exhibition (37 feet long), at The Children's Museum.

It was Otterness' discovery of how many potential sites the city had to offer that led him to increase the number of pieces he's exhibiting here — which he's doing at no additional cost. The budget for the project still remains \$288,000, with \$238,000 from the Cultural Development Commission and \$50,000 from the Deborah Joy Simon Charitable Trust.

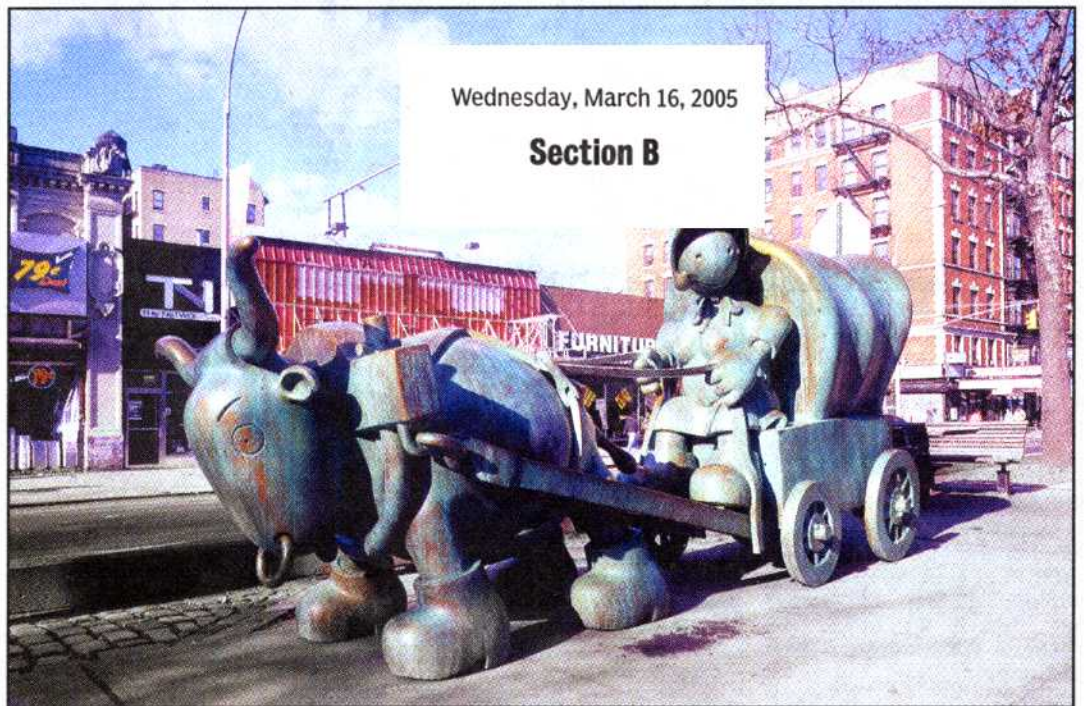
For that, said Ross, the city is getting an exhibition of artwork valued at more than \$5 million.

The exhibit also offers the potential for national and international exposure, because the works will be on display through July 31, meaning people in Indianapolis for conventions such as the American Association of Museums in early May, as well as for the Indianapolis 500 and Formula One races in May and June, will be exposed to Otterness' whimsical figures.

Ross hopes the exposure to so much work by such a renowned artist will be the first step in a long-term commitment to bringing similar public art exhibitions to the city and an incentive to begin investing in more works of public art.

"I'd love to see one of Tom's pieces or some other manifestation of his work stay here in the city," said Ross. "I hope someone or some organization will step up and buy a piece for the benefit of the entire community."

■ Call Star reporter S.L. Berry at (317) 444-6437.



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Section B

Photo provided by Tom Otterness

Go West: "Large Covered Wagon" is one of 25 bronze sculptures that Brooklyn, N.Y.-based artist Tom Otterness will show when his outdoor exhibition opens, mostly Downtown, on April 15.

Sculptures and their sites for 'Tom Otterness in Indianapolis'

■ **"Big Big Penny":** Southern steps of the Indiana World War Memorial building, facing Vermont Street

■ **"Boy and Dog":** Next to Starbucks on Monument Circle

■ **"Cellular Beaver":** City Market, North Delaware and East Market streets

■ **"Computer Pile":** By the SBC Building at North Meridian and West Ohio streets

■ **"DNA Chain":** By Borders at Meridian and Washington streets

■ **"Educating the Rich on Globe":** Southern steps of the Indiana World War Memorial, facing Vermont Street.

■ **"Escaping Leg":** Outside the Indianapolis Museum of Art

■ **"Fallen Dreamer":** In front of the new Herron School of Art & Design at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

■ **"Female Tourist":** In front of the RCA Dome and Indiana

Convention Center on South Capitol Avenue

■ **"Free Money":** In front of the RCA Dome and Indiana Convention Center on South Capitol Avenue

■ **"Free Money":** Inside Circle Centre, beside the third-floor escalators leading to the theaters

■ **"Gulliver":** Outside The Children's Museum's main entrance

■ **"Head":** At Veterans Memorial Plaza on Michigan Street

■ **"King":** In front of National City Bank at Illinois and Maryland streets

■ **"Large Bear":** At the main entrance to the Indianapolis Zoo

■ **"Large Covered Wagon":** In front of the Eiteljorg Museum

■ **"Last Penny":** Inside Circle Centre, beside the third-floor escalators leading to the theaters

■ **"Mad Mom":** Outside the

Capitol, in front of the Morton Memorial on North Capitol Avenue at West Market Street

■ **"Male Tourist":** In front of the RCA Dome and Indiana Convention Center on South Capitol Avenue

■ **"Marriage of Real Estate & Money":** By the Bank One Tower on Monument Circle

■ **"Miser":** Southern steps of the Indiana World War Memorial Building, facing Vermont Street

■ **"Queen":** In front of National City Bank at Illinois and Maryland streets

■ **"See No Evil":** Western side of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Circle

■ **"Tree of Knowledge":** City Market, North Delaware and East Market streets

■ **"Walking Fish":** Beside the Downtown Canal, in the tiered limestone garden between the Eiteljorg and Indiana State museums