

University purchases \$66,000 sculpture

By Kim Mitchell
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Have you walked past the front of the Engineering Science building lately and wondered what that massive red structure is outside? Certainly you have wondered why it is there.

The \$66,000 structure, a sculpture designed by David Black, professor emeritus at Ohio State University, was built as part of the Percent for Art Program.

Since 1990, Susan Russo, chair, art, said that under the Percent for Art Program, one percent of funds that are used to build a new building or remodel an already existing building is to be used for artwork for that particular building, but only if the building or remodeling cost \$4 million or more.

Russo said the School of Engineering is the first to receive such artwork since the program began. She also said that the School of Education will be the next.

Russo said that a sculpture was chosen for the artwork because the ESB needed an external piece of artwork. She said a selection committee, which was formed to select an artist, viewed many spaces in the building. They decided an outdoor feature would be best, especially since the art mosaic on the wall through the main



PHOTO BY DAVID GALERIS

▲ Sculpture reflects the field of Engineering outside Engineering Building.

entrance of the building will eventually be moved forward.

The search for an artist began in the fall of 1993. Russo said that the committee looked at slides from the Ohio Arts Council. In addition, the committee extended invitations to regional artists and asked them to submit proposals.

Russo said that four final artists were chosen to make presentations to the committee. Out of those four, David Black was selected.

Black said that this sculpture was designed to reflect the field of engineering. He also said his design was aimed at the idea of circular motion, hence

the sculpture's name, *Inner Circles*.

Black also said *Inner Circles* is metaphorical to what he calls "a happy machine." He said that the sculpture itself may even evoke a touch of humor, especially as one walks underneath it.

As for the construction of *Inner Circles*, which began early this fall, Black said that the sculpture was designed so that its parts could be cut out of, and expanded from, single sheets of welded aluminum. Once the actual construction of the sculpture was completed by the Northern Manufacturing Co., the piece

was painted red.

Black said that while many of his sculptures are white, this one is red because of YSU's colors.

Of *Inner Circles* the artist said, "I am very pleased. I am just sorry the paint isn't finished."

Russo said that while most of the sculpture is painted, the rest cannot be finished until the temperature outside reaches over 40 degrees. Also, the area around the sculpture still needs to be landscaped.

Black said he has been

▼ See Sculpture page 3

Sculpture

(continued from page 1)

sculpting for 40 years and has designed 20 large sculptures in various locations in the United States. He also has a sculpture in Japan and one in Germany.

When asked what she thought of the artwork, Russo said, "I really like it, and the dean of Engineering likes it as well."

Laurie Sinchak, senior, criminal justice, said, "I haven't decided whether I like it or not, but I certainly think it is very abstract."

John Gonda, sophomore, professional writing and editing, said, "I definitely think it is creative."

Russo revealed that there will be a dedication ceremony on June or July when a plaque will be dedicated to Black.