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Scrap-metal sculptor makes mane attraction at station gallery

Story by Becky Wright , Standard-Examiner staff - Jun 7 2013 - 8:30am



Most people who look at a piston see part of an engine. Tim Little sees the steely hooves of a rearing horse.

Tim Little is a sculptor, specializing in making statues from discarded metal and mechanical parts. His imagination and skill turns bike chains into luxurious manes and tails on shiny animals made of gears, rocker arms and shock absorbers.

An exhibit of the Riverton artist's work opens with a reception at 6 p.m. today, June 7, in Gallery at the Station. A display of paintings by Ron Russon also opens in the same gallery, inside Ogden's Union Station. Russon is a Utah County farmer who paints when he's not irrigating crops.

The show continues through July 2. It is part of today's First Friday Art Stroll in Ogden, which runs in tandem with the Historic 25th Street Car and Motorcycle Show and opening day of the Ogden Arts Festival.

Homegrown art

Russon grew up on a farm near Lehi, and appreciates the foundation it gave him.

"I think for a lot of people, it would serve them well to work on a dairy farm for a while," he said. "It forces you to show up — there's responsibility there, and if you don't do it, everybody suffers."

He studied illustration design at Brigham Young University, paying for it by working two jobs in addition to doing his share at the farm. His neck was broken in a car accident, but Russon recovered and managed to graduate and complete an internship at Illustration House in New York City.

Being a big-city illustrator wasn't for Russon. He returned to the family farm, where he still works long nights irrigating crops and cutting and baling hay. When he's not farming, he paints. His images are a mix of realism and abstraction, focused on rural scenes.

"I try to put myself into it ... my experiences, and thoughts," he said of his artwork. "I guess some people connect with it, and when that happens, it's like 'OK, the circles met — they understand.'"

Those moments don't always happen, and buying a piece of Russon's art strictly for decorative purposes is certainly valid.

"But when people connect, if I didn't need the money, I'd just give (the painting) to those people, because that's satisfying," he said. He compares it to eating a perfect peach off of a tree you grew and nurtured yourself.

"It's a similar feeling when somebody gets what I'm trying to do — you can't spend it or buy a house with it, but I sure wish you could, because that feels so much better than cashing a check."



PREVIEW

WHAT: Art by Tim Little and Ron Russon

WHEN: Opens with a reception during the First Friday Art Stroll, 6-8 p.m. today, June 7; continues 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, through July 2

WHERE: Gallery at the Station, 2501 Wall Ave., Ogden

ADMISSION: Free; 801-393-9890, <http://theunionstation.org>