

Kansas Sculptor Matthew Burke's Work Acquired by The New Sherman Health Hospital in Chicago Area Featuring State-of-the-Art Facilities and Geothermal Energy Producing Lake

Work commissioned from sculptor Matthew Burke was installed December 1st, 2009 in the new Sherman Health Hospital's 255 bed facility. The piece, entitled 2 Canoes made from bamboo, hemp cord, and rice paper, hangs in the facility's café adjacent to a 15 acre Geothermal Lake. The Hospital contracted Chicago based Corporate Art source's Kathleen Bernhardt, Burke's dealer, to install painting and sculpture throughout its 645,00 square feet facility. The new facility opened December 15th, 2009 and features a state-of-the-art Cancer Care Center, a Birthing Center, and a Heart and Cardiovascular Center.

Lawrence, KS, December 14, 2009 -- "It's more than just a lake. It's an energy-producing, stress-reducing geothermal lake that will heat and cool the hospital, saving an estimated \$1 million per year in energy costs," reads Sherman Health Hospital's Press Release regarding the lake at their new facility in Elgin, IL. Matthew Burke was commissioned to create and install his *2 Canoes* in the Hospital's Café as one way to bring the splendor of the Lake into the new facility. Burke, an Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Kansas, conceived the original work in 2008 with Associate Professor of Design, Tom Huang.

Kathleen Bernhardt found Burke's work on his Web-site www.mattburkesculpture.com and commissioned a second canoe with the intention of hanging both in the café. "The canoes have been so well received They have become—for many—the most popular part of the art program," says Bernhardt.

Burke tailored the work to the site knowing it would be viewed by employees, patients, and families. "I spent several weeks eating in a hospital cafeteria after my wife delivered our first son. I was emotionally and physically exhausted and I tried to put myself back in that head-space as I was making this work. It was important that the canoes be made of mostly natural materials in order to evoke a reassuring, nurturing tone to the work," says Burke. The steel wire, that previously held the form together, was removed and replaced with natural hemp cord. The skin is made of rice paper and the structure bamboo. The bamboo was harvested from the property of Burke's doctor in Lawrence, KS. His family owns land where bamboo grows unchecked and Burke was invited to use what he needed. Burke built the canoes in his Lawrence studio and transported them to the Chicago area for installation.

About Matthew Burke Sculpture: Matt Burke has been producing artwork for over 20 years and holds a Masters of Fine Arts degree from Queens College, C.U.N.Y. in New York. He currently teaches sculpture at the University of Kansas and his work is in many prominent collections including, the Brooklyn Museum of Art Library, the Museum of Modern Art Library, and the Cleveland Institute of Art.

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