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Innovation & Inspiration Tunnel

Bridget Noel Bybee
Utah State University

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INNOVATION & INSPIRATION TUNNEL

by

Bridget Noel Bybee

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree

of

HONORS IN UNIVERSITY STUDIES
WITH DEPARTMENT HONORS

in

Fine Arts - Sculpture

Approved:

Thesis/Project Advisor

(JinMan Joe)

Department Honors Advisor

(Alexa Sand)

Director of Honors Program

(Dr. Fox)

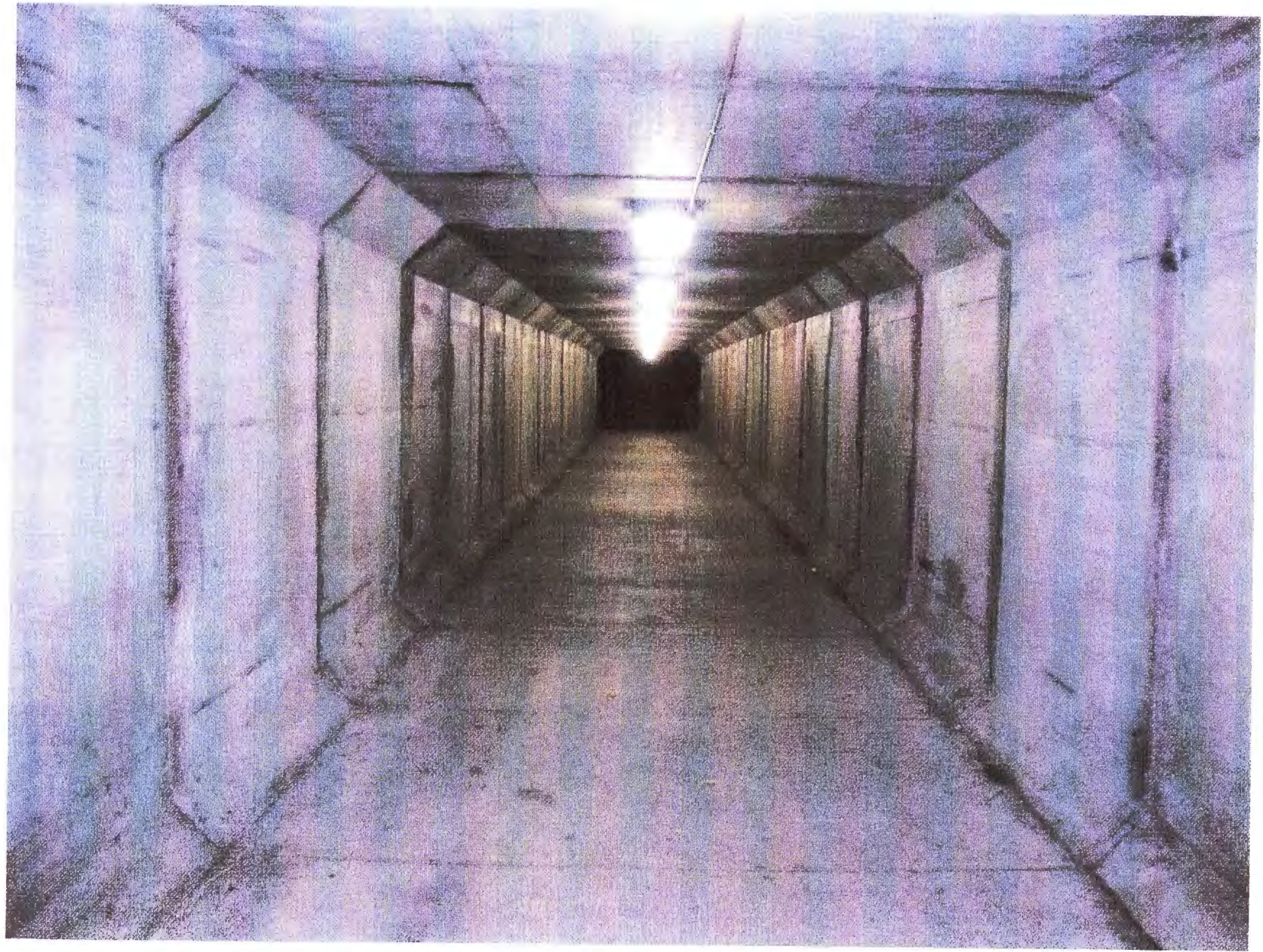
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, UT

2006

June 1, 2005
thru
December 16, 2005

Bridget Bybee
Honors Senior Thesis Project
Concise Run Down of Project to Date

I began the process on this project this summer. During the summer months I engaged in email correspondence with Dr. Lancy, then advisor of the Honors Department. We discussed possible thesis ideas and directions I could take with them. I presented him with my idea for the tunnels and he thought it was an excellent idea. He passed me on to Dr. Joyce Kinkead, Provost, in order to get the project approved by the university. I sent an abstract to Dr. Kinkead about mid July. Since I was in Florida for the summer Dr. Kinkead offered to leg work my project for me. I sent her a draft proposal and two sketches. I had two different design ideas, we were really unsure at that time if the University would allow me to change or add lighting in the tunnels. She took my proposal to the Space Committee where it was approved in August. Upon returning to USU I met up with Mark Holt and Stanley Kane of Facilities and Planning. I was to discuss the project with them and make sure all the project specs were coherent with certain building codes and such. The Facilities and Planning department offered to support the project by heading up the lights. I would choose the lighting that worked for the project and they would handle ordering it and the installation. That solved my initial question of whether or not the University would let me work with the electricity. The electricians are going to do it. After several meetings with Mark Holt everything on that route was in place. It was now my task to solicit monies for the rest of the project. A project of this caliber could not go in on a small budget since it is to be permanent and outdoors. I wrote a grant proposal and contacted Victoria Dutson with the School of the Arts program at USU. Meanwhile I was also developing the idea of collaborating with the sculpture professors at USU. I wanted the work to reflect the quality of program we have for sculpture here at USU. Since there are to be 15 panels I wanted to show more than just my work. After all the entire installation would be my work, there isn't much sense in me hogging all the space. With this thought I asked JinMan Jo and Eileen Doktorski if they would be willing to support the project and donate some of their work specifically for the project to the university. They were both excited and willing. We also discussed that it might be a good idea to showcase a few of our graduate students work as well. In this way it would showcase the best of the sculpture has to offer, its professors, grad students, and honors student. I also sought out Chuck Gay as he was the head of a committee that was established a while back to buy sculptures for campus. Unfortunately funding for his department had been cut and he couldn't help with the project in that way, but he was desirous to write me a letter of recommendation for the Marie Eccles Caine foundation. I then submitted my proposal with letters of recommendation; I also had one from Eileen, to the School of the Arts via Victoria Dutson who then passed it along to Julie Pitcher. Dr. Pitcher is suppose to be the school's financial connection with the Caine foundation. I recently received a letter from her stating how much she liked my project, but could not afford any monies at this time since her budget is tied up in the new concert hall. I still plan to install the work this coming spring. However, right now I will be looking for alternative avenues, perhaps business donations of supplies, so that the work will still maintain its original caliber.









Commerative
Plaque

Honors Senior Thesis: Funding Proposal
Bridget Bybee
BFA candidate: Double Major in Art and Anthropology

I intend to create one large scale permanent work for Utah State University as fulfillment for the senior thesis of my Honors degree. The site that has been approved for this project is the tunnel under HWY 89 connecting the student B parking lot to the eastern most end of campus where the art and engineering departments are located. This high traffic area is ugly, uninviting, and currently in need of repair. The site is perfect in its nature as a tunnel that leads towards the new School of the Arts and, thus it is an exquisite site for a new art installation. The parking lot, located on the south side of the highway, will also become one of the main parking lots for the new concert hall. The art is not only for the students but also for the public. Considering the location and its imperative viewers the work not only needs to be of high quality, but the materials also need to be of high quality. With its permanent attributes the work needs adequate lighting that can be easily replaced and must be constructed of material suitable to the climate to avoid drastic wear and tear. In short it must be long lasting and easy to maintain.

The design for this installation consists of several elements. First the lighting in the tunnel is terrible. Even though it is very bright, many students feel it is unsafe and "creepy". I plan to change some of the current lighting and add more lights in the finished design of my work. The new lights will be spaced throughout, on the walls as well as the ceiling. They will be colorful emphasizing the art while simultaneously distracting the viewers from the areas of cement that one can do nothing about. I am working with the Facilities and Planning engineers to ensure the lighting requirements are maintained. The lighting will then be encased in a frame-like structure that conveys the artistic motive of the installation and protects the lights themselves from vandalism. Finally various sculptures will be placed within the lit-frames to fully convey the overall theme and transform the tunnel from a dreary passageway into an installation of art. Under my direction and keeping within the main goals of the piece, Professors Eileen Doktorski and Jinman Jo have offered to donate some work to the project. I have also enlisted our two graduate students in sculpture to create work specifically for the project. This collaboration of artists work within the larger spatial installation will be two fold.

First it will add stylistic variety enlightening the viewer on the different avenues of learning one can take. And second it will help represent the full and talented sculpture program USU has to offer. Keeping in mind that this is a high traffic area and open to the elements, the new design will be kept within 6 inches of the current walls and will be constructed of material suitable to the climate of Logan, UT.

The main focus of this installation will be to convey the idea of passage through time by appropriating it to location. Mankind is propelled to move; the history of man details this. Yet we cannot detach the timeline of men from its location. Place or space has always played a key impact on how man will spend his time there. Adaptation is essential for the human as well as the environment he possesses; the two must be in harmony. I will key this idea in two ways. First upon entrance of the installation the viewer will encounter a series of illuminations these visual stimulations will make the viewer aware of the 3-dimensionality of the space and force the direction and shape of the space to be a formal element in the art. The modern movement I will construct will encompass the walls and ceiling. As each viewer continues further into the tunnel he will notice the very 2 dimensional and elemental works placed in each section. These different abstract conceptions will be formed relative to the mind provoking thought and question. It is then upon the head of the viewer to pass by, conquer, ignore, be enlightened, or question his environment. One may easily reflect upon passage of his/her own life. After all, a successful student, artist, teacher, Aggie, does not just pass through life, but rather submerses themselves into that which intrigues them and propels them forward.

In order to complete this project by spring 2006 I am asking for your help. The projects estimated total cost will be just over \$10,000. And that is just the cost of materials. The facilities and planning department at USU has offered to pay for the lighting fixtures and maintain them this will cover about \$3300 worth of materials initially as well as pay for the electricians to install them. What I am looking for is additional funds specifically for the concrete framing and the metals (both sheets for welding and bronze for casting) so that the artwork will last in this location for time. The estimated remaining total is about \$6700. If it is not possible to reach this figure I would appreciate all donations to move the project forward.

BUDGET		SHEET	
Mold making materials			
Plaster	\$60		
Rubbers	\$120		
Release agents	\$20		
Clay	\$118		
	Totals	\$318	
Steel Sheets			
3 @ 1/8"	\$324		
2@ 3/16"	\$920		
1 @ 3/4"	\$745		
	Totals	\$1989	
Casting			
Epoxy Resins	\$300		
Bronze	\$1200		
	Totals	\$1500	
Concrete			
\$5.00 per linear ft	Total	\$2700	
Lighting*			
Fixtures 60 @ \$50 ea.	\$3000		
Bulbs 60 @ \$3 ea.	\$90		
Wiring, etc.	\$300		
	Totals	\$3390*	
Miscellaneous			
Nuts, Bolts, etc.	Total	\$200	
		Grand Total	
		\$10,097	
			Funds Needed
			\$6,700

*Paid for by Facilities and Planning Dept. at USU

EXTENSION

UtahState UNIVERSITY

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Logan UT 84322-4900
Phone: (435) 797-2200
Fax: (435) 797-3268

November 10, 2005

RE: Senior Honors Thesis for Bridget Bybee, BFA candidate in Art and Anthropology

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to provide my support for Bridget Bybee in her efforts to enhance and beautify a pedestrian tunnel on the USU campus in fulfillment of the requirements of the University's Honors Program. As chair of the UPRPC Sub-committee on Campus Sculpture, it is my responsibility to ensure that such projects conform to the approved policies. The University, UPRPC, and the Sub-committee have made every effort to provide support to our students and faculty. Bridget's work provides another opportunity to assist.

The site that has been approved for this project is the pedestrian tunnel under Highway 89 connecting the student B parking lot to the campus. This is a perfect site for a public arts project as the tunnel leads to the Fine Arts Complex (School of the Arts and the new Recital Hall), in addition to other campus buildings and facilities. In addition to the students and faculty that will be passing through this tunnel, the public will use it during times of special events and programs. Consequently, any adornment must be of the highest quality in design and materials used. This is the first such "permanent" enhancement project of a public area on campus, and, as such, sets an important precedent for quality. Such a work will need adequate lighting that can be easily replaced, and must be constructed of materials that can withstand climate and contact. It must be durable and easy to maintain.

The tunnel provides a physical entry into the campus. One gets the sense of actually "moving into" the heart of the campus with its many disciplines, vast knowledge, and beauty. The artist will be changing some of the current lighting to make the viewer aware of space and direction in a three-dimensional setting. The new lighting would provide equal illumination but also color and character. The emphasis on space will engage the viewer to think beyond just passing through the tunnel, and direct their attention to the process of discovery as they move along. Placed within the light sculpture will be the work of five artists working in collaboration. Professors Eileen

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INSTITUTION

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Doktorski and Jinman Jo have agreed to donate some of their work also. This collaborative effort will add stylistic variety to the viewer, and it will exhibit the array of skills and talent within the sculpture program at USU. Because this is a public walkway, the works will be within six inches of the concrete walls and constructed of durable materials.

The main focus of the installation will be to convey the idea of passage through time by appropriating it to the location. Mankind must move. The history of man details this, and yet, we cannot detach the timeline of man from location. Place or space has always played a key role in how man spends his time and invests his energy. Adaptation is essential for humankind to perform and exist in the environment of the time. There must be harmony. The artists will key this concept in two ways. First, upon entry, the viewer will encounter a series of illuminations whose visual stimulation will create awareness of the shape and space of the tunnel. The constructed sculptures will be two-dimensional and encompass the ceiling and walls. The viewer will find these along the each section of the tunnel. The viewer is required to interact with the visual images and stimuli that they encounter. This is the purpose of art.

The proposed project has the backing of the Facilities and Planning Department of USU. In fact they are providing the lighting. I and the Sub-committee for Campus Sculpture also support this project. The proposed budget is minimal at only \$6700.00. We ask that you join with us to celebrate the efforts, skills, and talents of our USU student and faculty artists in their efforts to enhance and beautify the campus while displaying their work.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Gay
Associate Vice President for
University Extension, and
Chair, UPRPC Sub-Committee
For Campus Sculpture