

Stephen Shachtman at work on 'Wilson Watchmen'

Artist will create 4 monoliths for a bridge over the Big Thompson River

By **Kenneth Jessen** For the Reporter-Herald POSTED: 06/28/2016 08:21:08 PM MDT



"Bridge" is located at just outside of Fort Logan National Cemetery south of Denver. (Courtesy of Stephen Shachtman)

Shachtman says, "Conjuring ideas for a series of work often has a trigger point." At one time, Shachtman's trigger point was sea creatures, and this became his focus. He became inspired by the cosmos and used stacked laminated glass for this series.

His current ideas pivot around monolithic forms, and this won him the contract for the bridge over the Big Thompson River on Wilson Avenue. His work is due to be installed this year and is titled, "The Wilson Watchmen" consisting of four monoliths standing 10 feet tall and 2 feet wide.



Loveland artist Stephen Shachtman was in this year's Governor's Art Show at the Loveland Museum/Gallery and soon his work will adorn the Wilson Avenue bridge over the Big Thompson River. (Kenneth Jessen)

Today, Shachtman teaches at Metro State University in Denver and at the same time, works on his designs. He was in this year's Governor's Art Show in the Loveland Museum/Gallery.

Through his creative mind, Stephen Shachtman has transitioned through various stages in his career as an artist confident of his ability to fabricate almost anything.

In his mind are various themes based on humanity, science and geometric architecture. He has included jewelry, furniture, lighting design and sculpted abstract pieces.

The first piece he can remember completing as a child was a sea green bowl, and his mother still has this, representing the start of his career.



Shachtman concentrated on sea creatures such as this caped squid titled in Spanish "Cabo Chipiron." (Lindsay Tandler / Courtesy of Stephen Shachtman)

Does the potential of commercial appeal enter into to Shachman's thoughts? His answer is yes and no. His pieces at Columbine Gallery are suitable for the home, but his creativity and inspiration are detached from potential commercial appeal. He does his work for himself first with the hope that others will appreciate the piece. "I create for myself but will use colors people like and red is one people seem to be drawn to," says Shachtman.

Born in Fort Collins and educated at Colorado State University obtaining a bachelor of fine art, Shachtman went on to the Rochester Institute of Technology for his master of fine art. Both degrees focused on jewelry design and fabrication.