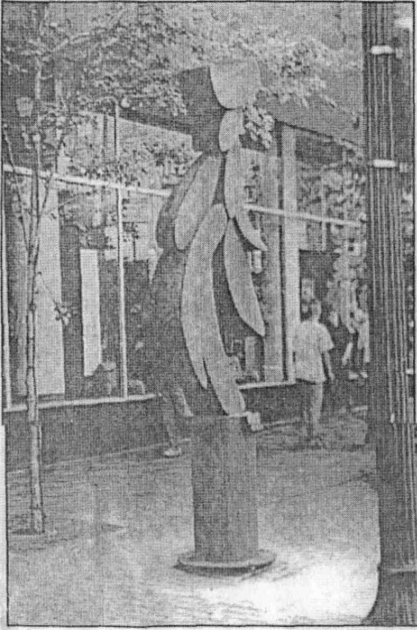


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# Local artist draws national acclaim

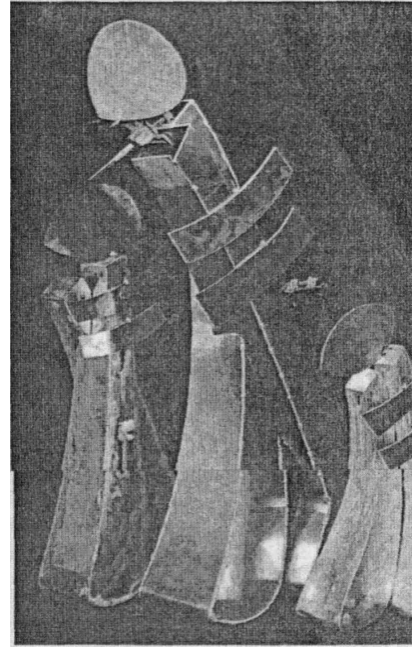
Warrington's art could soon be at Ground Zero in New York



*Photo courtesy of Warrington's web page*  
Warrington's "Geisha" is one piece that now sits on a penthouse roof in Illinois.



*Photo by John McCallum*  
Richard Warrington holds up pieces of his sculpture, "The Sentinels" in front of the drawing from which he started.



*Photo by John McCallum*  
This model of Warrington's memorial proposal for Ground Zero will be auctioned off on ebay.

**By JOHN McCALLUM**  
Staff Reporter

Art critics can be tough, but as a sculptor, Cheney resident Richard Warrington is probably his, own toughest critic. "I have to please myself before I please anybody else," Warrington says. "If I'm not happy, I'm not selling it."

It's part of a creative philosophy that has led to national success during his over 30 years of work as an artist. Warrington's pieces are on display in galleries in Chicago, New York, Florida, and several other states, and have been featured at art expositions throughout the country. It's a philosophy that has helped him create an art business selling commissioned pieces to private citizens, historic preservation organizations, and corporations such as Tap Pharmaceutical in Illinois.

It's a philosophy that could soon lead to a Warrington piece being displayed at a place of national significance - the site of the former World Trade Centers, now known as Ground Zero.

### Style and form

Warrington's style is impressionistic; an artistic movement started in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in which the artist uses his or her impressions, emotions, and reactions to their environment at a specific moment to create a visual interpretation of what they see and feel. Warrington works mostly in aluminum, because of its weight and workability, to create two- and three-dimensional hollow form and silhouette sculptures. He is exacting in detail and form.

Warrington incorporates elements of color, powder-coated paint baked on at 400 degrees, and the texture of buffed metallic finishes to accentuate his pieces. While aluminum is his preferred medium, he has worked with corten steel, stainless steel, and copper. His sculptures range in size from 38 inches to 11 feet in height.

Warrington's inspirations for his pieces come from a variety of environments. The streamlined, busy elegance of his "Five o'clock people" came from watching the hustle and bustle of New York City pedestrians in 1992.

"The Gathering" takes its casually intertwined form from the environment where it's displayed, in the lobby of Tap Pharmaceutical's corporate headquarters. It's one of six Warrington pieces on display in the building, and it's part of the business end of Warrington's work.

## **The business of art**

Warrington has worked as an artist since he opened his studio in 1971 on Wall Street in Spokane, just north of the Magic Lantern Theatre. A long-time resident of eastern Washington - his family -owned Warrington's Furniture in Wilbur, where he graduated from high school in 1965 - Warrington moved his studio to its present location east of Marshall in 1975.

Warrington's passion is art, and he runs it just like any small business. Most of what he makes goes back into the business in the form of new equipment, advertising, and other expenditures.

Like many small businesses, he has had his share of ups and downs with clients. Warrington has had gallery owners "walk away" with his work when their businesses fail and they close shop. He has also pursued some clients via small claims court to get paid.

But he has also had his share of good fortune. The original piece he made for Tap turned into a commission for five more pieces in their corporate headquarters. A piece he had hoped the city of Spokane would buy ended up getting sold to a corporate developer down the road from Tap in Illinois.

"Geisha" sat on the sidewalk outside of the Bon Marche on Riverside for a while, Warrington said, before it was sent to a gallery in Lincoln City, Ore. It was then sold to Perlmutter Investments Company in Highland Park, ID., where it sits on the roof outside of the CEO's penthouse office.

Warrington's good fortune with "Geisha?" Where he had offered to sell the piece to Spokane for \$24000.00 he ended up selling it to Perlmutter for \$34000.00

Small entrepreneurs are often looking for innovative ways to slay in business and seek to develop new products or approaches to their work. So does Warrington-

"I'm trying to come up with new things and force myself down the road," he said.

Besides two- and three-dimensional sculptures, Warrington is now working on a series of clocks in the impressionistic style of course - using brushed aluminum and copper. He put his first clock on display at the First Night Celebration in Spokane and received good reviews.

But like most small business owners, Warrington doesn't do what he does to make money. He does it because it's what he loves to do.

Everyone is looking for approval in what they do, he said, and that's what he gets with doing his art "It's the satisfaction."

In a way, it's partly what has led Warrington to get involved in the Ground Zero Memorial project.

## **Impressions of Ground Zero**

Warrington started the Ground Zero sculpture after receiving a fax on Dec. 21 from the New York Art Expo organization asking artists exhibiting works at Art Expo 2002 in March to create proposals for a planned memorial to the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

While people from developers, architects, and politicians have all been asked to provide suggestions for what should be built at Ground Zero, no one had thought to ask artists, until now.

The sculpture, if commissioned by the memorial group, will be 30-40 feet tall, and built out of hollow-form aluminum. Entitled "The Sentinels," the piece will be a transparent purple color. Warrington said only six artists will have works displayed at the planned memorial site.

Warrington is building a six-to seven-foot model of the piece, which will first be displayed at a special exhibit on Feb. 28 in New York. After the exhibit it will be placed for auction on e-Bay, enabling people around the world to see Warrington's work.

Proceeds from the auction will go to the New York Times 9/11 Fund, which Warrington said he has been told is a very prestigious fund.

"And that in itself makes it quite an honor to come up with an idea," he said.

Creating the model is presenting a challenge, Warrington said. He has had to use three different metal suppliers to get enough aluminum for the piece.

He is also looking for some help in defraying the \$3,500 cost of the sculpture. He has asked Home Depot to provide the crating and packing material, and has set up a non-profit fund with a tax number at Horizon Credit Union for corporations and individuals who wish to contribute to the project.

Warrington said he has already received some donations to the fund, including \$200 from Marsh Insurance Company. Marsh had people in offices on the 100th floor of one of the WTC towers on Sept. 11.

The sculpture in three pieces represents man, woman, and child, Warrington said. There is also a striking resemblance to the often-televised images of the ruined facade of the towers that were left standing upright among the debris.

With the man, woman, and child form, it can serve to remind us that the people killed in the collapse of the WTC towers were also fathers and mothers, whose loss is felt by the children and other family members they left behind.

More of Warrington's work can be viewed at his website, [www.rwarrington.com](http://www.rwarrington.com).