

Art is truly in the eye of the beholder

Most mornings I go for a ride on my old bicycle. The exercise is good for my aging body. I also enjoy the fairly fresh, not yet too-polluted morning air. It's such a pleasure to float down the road, past lawns and flowers and trees.

A few days ago I rode out of my garden into the park and on to Parkview Avenue. When I turned into Maple Avenue a huge creation imposed itself on my vision. I stopped and stared. What is that, I thought in wonder, what could it possibly be? I got off my bicycle and measured it. I stretched my arm up, but could not reach the top. 8 feet high! I walked along it and counted my steps. Holy Moses, 140 yards long! Art, I thought, it MUST be art. What else could it be? Only artists go all out like that without giving a damn (excuse me). Only artists have ideas as weird and wonderful, as gigantic, as rough, as challenging, as avant garde!

Stop! I better come down from the clouds and describe the thing to you.

The work isn't quite finished yet, only the supporting posts seem to be in place for the full length of the piece. At the most western end, blue, brown and aqua-green panels fill the spaces between the posts. Vivid, energetic touches of paint have been applied here and there. A black vulture's claw, some dead branches, a planet bleeding?

Further on, a bucolic landscape with a cute, defenseless rabbit threatened by black birds. Also a big rock, narrow at the bottom, as if eaten away by time, with green bushes growing out of the top. Another panel sports a splendid road (several lanes, of course) in between flowers and trees, going nowhere.

I must confess I am simply overwhelmed by the magnitude of the conception.

Here is an artist with a very big



John Sommer
IDEAS AND THE ARTS

message. Since I spotted it first I have been back again and again for another look. This piece has invaded my dreams. I can't wait for the artist to finish his work (he must be a he, his work is so masculine, so aggressive).

What is he trying to tell us? From what is completed so far I get the feeling that the end product will be tough and hard-hitting and subversive of the status quo. I

suspect the creator of this work of art wants to change everything. In any case, go quickly and look for yourself. This is hot stuff, quite out of the ordinary. Let me know if you think my interpretation is wrong.

Take the vulture's claw. What else but the threat developers hold over unsuspecting neighbourhoods. The dead branches? Century old trees uprooted for housing. The bleeding planet? Poor mother earth raped and left to die. The landscape with the cute rabbit and the black birds? Pure and stark symbolism. Right there on Maple Avenue we have all these frightened people cowering in their houses, waiting in terror for two huge towers that will take away their sunlight.

The rock eaten away by time? Well, that is the mighty developer himself. These rascally people try to do him in, but he is green on top and will outlast them all. Remember what he said: I always

win! The splendid road between flowers and trees? That is the ever-widened road to the future. It will lead us over the cliff into oblivion. Deep stuff, don't you think? It will put Georgetown on the map, art-wise.

But there was this little, mean looking guy. He watched me coming back to this great, big thing and he wanted to know why I was staring at it all the time.

I said to him that I know a lot about art and that Georgetown is so lucky to get this fabulous piece. Boy, was he rude to me.

There you have it. People can't agree about anything anymore in this blooming country.

With the greatest regrets, I have to inform my readers that part of the artwork described above, was wantonly painted over by somebody who must be hostile to the finer things in life. I hang my head in shame.

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