



St. Charles Public Library

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PRESS RELEASE

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SIGNATURE ART PIECE CHOSEN FOR ST. CHARLES PUBLIC LIBRARY

The St. Charles Public Library Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of a signature art piece by local artist Larry K. Johnson of LK Johnson Studio in Geneva, IL, to be permanently displayed at the St. Charles Public Library. The commissioned bronze relief will be on display above the fireplace in the newly-renovated space. The St. Charles Public Library Board of Trustees graciously accepted the Foundation's gift of the \$10,000 art piece at the September 9 Board of Trustees Meeting.

Johnson selected this piece for his submission because "The Porta Series deals with the classic theme of an entry, a door, a window, or a passage into a new space, a new world. The piece explores the transformation of the "Keystone" of a traditional arch, the strongest element, into an organic movement of form and content. It allows the viewer to enter a new dimension, a new discovery. Below it we see the horizon of today's environment, but above it we see new life, sparks of light, and hope."

Growing up in Ladd, IL, Johnson credits his parents with instilling an appreciation for nature, simple beauty and music. He attended St. Bede Academy in Peru, IL where he developed an interest in sculpture inspired by his teacher, Rev. Joseph Heyd, O.S.B., who emerged as a mentor and longtime collaborator. Larry enrolled in the BFA program at Fontbonne College in St. Louis, MO. There he served as the studio assistant to Rudolph Torrini, department head, nationally known figurative sculptor. After obtaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Sculpture, Larry began graduate studies at the University of Chicago. He was a student of Virginio Ferrari, internationally known sculptor from Verona, and Harold Rosenberg, noted New York art critic and author. Larry continued his graduate studies at

Southern Illinois University studying with sculptor Thomas Walsh and Herbert Fink, member of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation. His graduate studies culminated with an MFA in Sculpture.

Examples of Johnson's work can be found within the Fox Valley Community including in the Geneva Visitors Center and Peck Farm Park. They include a bronze relief commissioned by the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, and a life-size bronze sculpture of "Prairie Girl," which was donated to the Geneva Park District by the Starshine Galaxy Foundation.

"I feel this "Porta" piece embodies an invitation to explore new beginnings. This is congruent with the mission of books in their protected haven, the library," stated Johnson.

The St. Charles Public Library is located temporarily at 305 South Ninth Street in St. Charles. For more information, please call Edith G. Craig, Library Director, at 630-584-0076, ext. 273.