

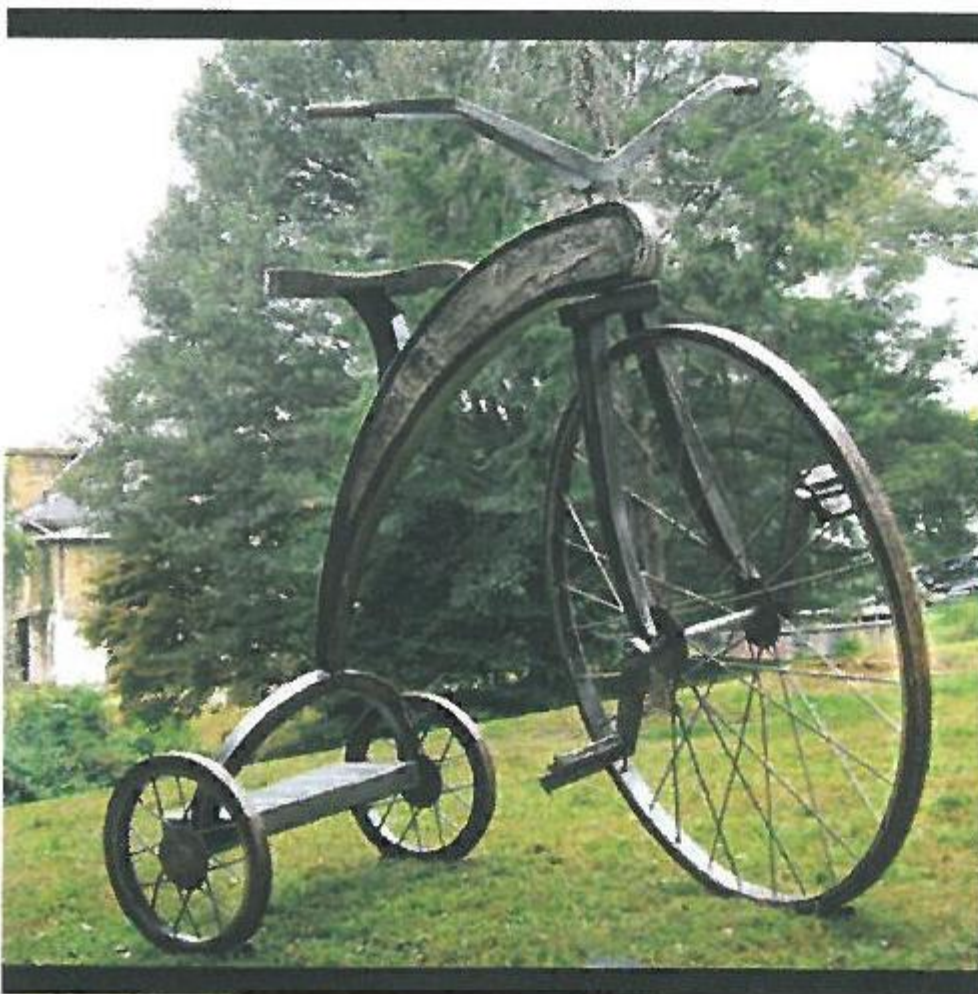
AUGUST 2012

Sketch Pad

Larry Hackney's "Chasing The Wind" By Peggy Harris

SKETCH PAD is sure that all of our readers will agree that the sculptures found in this year's Willow Walk exhibit were absolutely breathtaking. We are so very fortunate that many of them have been purchased to be placed in different locations around town for everyone to enjoy for many years to come.

One such treasure was Larry Hackney's "Chasing the Wind." Now, if you will, flashback in your mind with SKETCH PAD to that great tricycle that you had as a child. You remember the one. You could wheel around on it at break neck speed and play with it for hours on end. A tricycle, from a child's viewpoint is paradise on earth. However, it always seemed that somebody on the block always had a tricycle that was just a little bit bigger, little bit redder, a little bit faster or its bell was a little bit louder. You know the bit. Well, Larry Hackney took care of that problem.



Larry's Willow Walk sculpture "Chasing the Wind" is probably the biggest tricycle known to man. It stands ten feet high and was fashioned strictly from Larry's memory. The tricycle is made of steel and bronze. The wheels turn, as do the handlebars. It is a very large and functional piece. It is made from twelve-gauge plate steel and it has been hammered, textured and embellished with bronze throughout. In the days of your youth, it would have been the envy of the neighborhood.

Larry expertly explains his most unique artistic view in his artist statement. Larry has always been drawn to sculpture. The elegance of structure and scale has always fascinated his artistic nature. Larry uses the most basic of tools. The simplicity of his tools allows him to

form a connection that gives him the opportunity to listen to the materials he is working with. In this manner, creating art work becomes a conversation. His interest centers around telling the story of what he sees and feels. However, Larry explains, that ultimately it is the viewer that tells the final story.

Speaking of tools, Larry works alone in a one-man shop in the northern part of Orange County. He is entirely self-taught. Larry tells SKETCH PAD that about eighteen years ago, since another gift tie did not seem appropriate, his wife gave him a Lincoln Stick Welder. It was this tool that addicted Larry to steel welding. This is an interesting tool in itself. However, the explanation of this tool goes beyond SKETCH PAD'S realm of expertise. There is abundant information about it on line.

Larry hopes that his art, "Speaks simply to the state of man, the state of our earth and sometimes just to the whimsy in life." All of Larry's art is based on his view of how one artist can build a better world and enhance the world around him. In his words, Larry tells us that, "We can accomplish anything but we will always need a bigger hammer."

"CHASING THE WIND" will be located in the Round-a-Bout at Alamance Crossing. Stop by soon and see if the tricycle of your memory can somehow compare with its splendor. We are all grateful to our Alamance County Arts Council, Duke Energy, The New Leaf Society, and Carolina Biological Supply for providing the funds for these artistic treasures to grace distinctive points in our city.