



Wylie's New Public Art Celebrates Power of Pet 'RESCUE'

Wylie, Texas, May 14, 2019 – Wylie's 12th public art installation, "'RESCUED' The Power of Adoption," created by artist Robert Barnum for the Wylie Animal Shelter, celebrates the bond between rescued animals and shelter staff, as well as those who adopt these animals in need of forever homes. The sculpture plaque says its mission is to, "Honor the noble and dedicated work of the Wylie Animal Shelter staff and volunteers and recognize their efforts to care for and find forever homes for lost animals."

A dedication ceremony will be held Saturday, June 1, 9:30 to 11 a.m., at the shelter, 949 Hensley Lane. Families are invited to bring their adopted pets for a reunion photograph; there will be treats for the pets and art activities for the kids. Following the dedication, Barnum will present a program on the making of "RESCUED" at Conversations Coffee Bar, 304 N. Ballard.

This artwork was funded entirely by money raised from the Wylie Arts Festival and Bluegrass on Ballard.

The sculpture is made of aluminum and corten steel. The first component, representing a child holding a dog, stands 12 feet tall. The second, over 21 feet tall, depicts shelter workers holding animals, arranged to show the carousel of animals managed on a daily basis.

Barnum said that when he visited the shelter prior to creating his design, he was struck by the staff's dedication, patience, and care. In a community input meeting, the words "compassion," "bonding," and "love" were used time and again. Inspired to incorporate those words into the piece, he etched them in the aluminum, which is backlit at night.

"Those words will stand for centuries as a subtle 'tap on the back' of future viewers as to what this community, this shelter, and this time believed in," he said.

Barnum teaches sculpture at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich. He has received over 40 awards in national and international juried fine art competitions and has created several large-scale murals and sculptures throughout the United States. He received undergraduate fine art degrees from Oregon College of Art and Southern Oregon State University and an M.F.A. in printmaking and painting at Idaho State University. He is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, and the Watercolor USA Honor Society.

Media Contact:
Craig Kelly, PIO
972-516-6016
craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov