

Building gets a pop of color

RON COWAN Statesman Journal

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The placid commercial building facade of the Hallie Ford Museum of Art is still there; it's just popping with color and form now.

Workers from FXG Construction this week installed "Portals Through Time," 45 reflector panels by Ellensburg, Wash., artist Dick Elliott in the second floor window openings, each one original and each one alive with abstract, colorful patterns in amber, blue, clear, green and red.

Each panel is 69.25 inches by 21.75 inches.

"They add this wonderful element of design, color and pattern for the second floor of the building," said museum director John Olbrantz.

Nine of the windows on the State Street side of the building are open on the inside, so interior lights will shine out at night, for the effect of stained glass.

Two other open panels at the south end of the building will be covered on the inside as part of autumn gallery renovations. The other windows already are covered inside for gallery purposes.

"I think it's sort of a classic, serious building, and it introduces a light touch to it," said Roger Hull, a Willamette University art history professor.

Olbrantz said he is talking to Salem officials about having the current full deciduous trees lining the sidewalks replaced with columnar trees so the windows won't be hidden in the summer. He also is thinking of outdoor lighting for the facade.

Still, he said people already are noticing.

"People have walked by and gone, 'Wow,'" he said.

The windows will be dedicated Oct. 1 as part of celebration of the museum's 10th anniversary.

Elliott, who has advanced pancreatic cancer, is not expected to attend. Olbrantz said the artist's brother, Jim, will probably deliver the artist's remarks.



Timothy j. gonzalez | Statesman Journal
Josh Jordan with FXG Construction installs one of the 45 reflector panels into the windows on the second floor of the Hallie Ford Museum of Art on Wednesday. Below: Sun shines through one of the reflector panels on the south wall of the museum. The inside of the window will be covered during a upcoming remodel of the gallery space.

Reflectors

What: "Portals Through Time," 45 reflector panels installed in the second floor windows of the Hallie Ford Museum of Art; material is safety reflectors, in amber, blue, clear, green and red

Cost: \$45,000

Artist: Dick Elliott, Ellensburg, Wash.

Dedication: 5 p.m. Oct. 1

Where: Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Willamette University, 700 State St., Salem

Call: (503) 370-6855

Artist web site: www.reflectorart.com