

PUBLIC ART



SEAN SPERRY/CHRONICLE

Ole Nelson stands by his sculpture that will be placed in front of Starky's Deli Saturday as part of the Gallatin Art Crossing sculpture project.

New sculptures to line downtown

By **AMANDA RICKER**
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A 10-foot-tall steel sculpture of a tree growing through two sails will soon be planted on the sidewalk outside of Starky's Deli.

The sculpture, created by Bozeman artist Ole Nelson, is one of 12 new public art pieces being unveiled Saturday in downtown Bozeman by Gallatin Art Crossing, a nonprofit organization that aims to make sculpture more accessible.

The project started two years ago with five pieces, said Tate Chamberlin, an organizer of Art Crossing.

"This year, it will be up to 34," he said Thursday.

Volunteers will lead tours of the sculptures during a reception at the Bozeman Public Library from 5:30 to 8 p.m. this Saturday. There will be music by Scott Evje, free beer, wine and appetizers. People will be allowed to take their drinks with them on the tour, Chamberlin said.

Of the new sculptures, six were created by Bozeman artists, four by Montanans who live elsewhere in the state and two by

out-of-staters from Salt Lake City and Fort Collins, Colo.

Nelson said his piece was inspired by days he spent sailing in Minoqua, Wisc., where he grew up. His sculpture will be erected in the 100 block of North Tracy Avenue.

Chamberlin said sometimes, when Gallatin Art Crossing decides to put a sculpture in front of a business, he gives the business owner a couple of sculpture to consider. Other times, placement is more random.

In addition, many of the sculptures are erected in parks or outside public buildings.

While most of the sculptures are loaned to Gallatin Art Crossing to be displayed for one year, the group aims to purchase one or two sculptures each year, creating a permanent collection.

Last year, Gallatin Art Crossing bought "Sun Sit Bench," by Bozeman artist Zak Zakovi, the sculpture voted most popular by the public. It has a permanent home outside the library.

Gallatin Art Crossing plans to buy the people's choice again this year. Ballots are available at the group's Web site, www.gallatinartcrossing.com.

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The sculpture project started two years ago with four pieces. This year there will be 34.