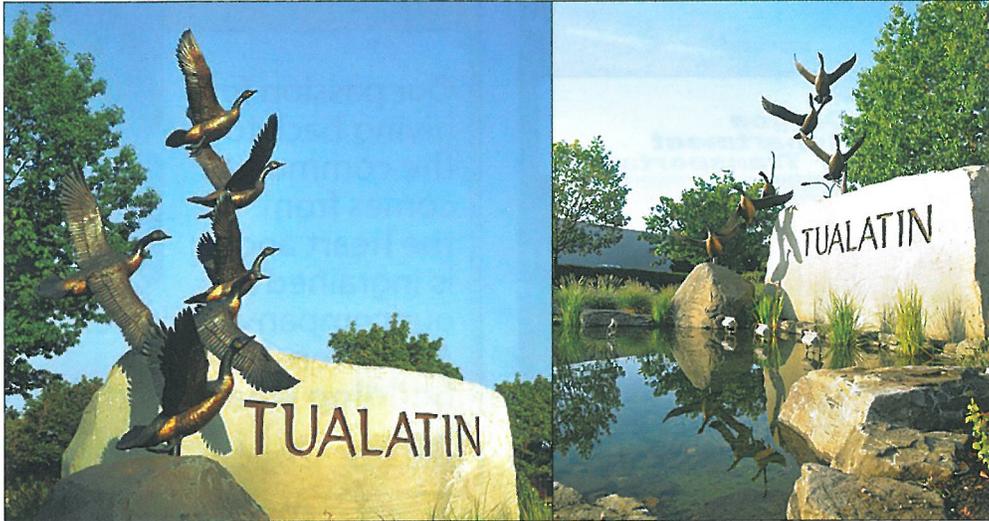


FIRST PLACE :: PUBLIC WORKS/INFRASTRUCTURE/TRANSPORTATION

STUDIO ART DIRECT

CITY OF TUALATIN GATEWAY MONUMENT



Engineering often is a pursuit of function. Design usually is driven by functional criteria, and if there's enough money left in the budget and time in the deadline, artistry is integrated into the project. On occasion, though, the roles are reversed.

The city of Tualatin wanted to create an entrance monument that reflected the town. Studio Art Direct won the contract after submitting a design that met multiple requirements: a high degree of visibility, safe integration into a heavy-volume traffic area, and the ability to transmit the sense of the spirit of Tualatin in the seven or eight seconds that a passing motorist would see the monument.

"Geese came to mind for a lot of reasons," said Janelle Baglien, president of Studio Art Direct. "Lots of geese fly through the area and surrounding wetlands and wild acreage on migration. To Native Americans, geese are special. They're 'spirit guides' and embody a sense of community. When they fly in formation, they take turns at flying lead. If a goose gets sick and drops out, another will drop out and stay with it, so there's a real sense of shared responsibility and dedication in their behavior."

The 18-foot-high bronze sculpture of seven

life-sized geese taking flight from a pond has a natural elegance. Adding to the realism of the piece is the fact that the underlying engineering components are hidden from view.

The monument is at Tualatin Sherwood Road and Nyberg Street, just off of Interstate 5. Site excavation was no small feat in the bustle of a busy intersection. The pond and sculpture are backed by a massive 20-ton slab of quarried limestone, which creates a wall that bears the city name engraved in tall block letters. Reinforced footings support the rock, and are designed to withstand severe weather and seismic incidents.

Sculptor Rip Caswell worked extensively with engineer Gary Lewis, first creating a "pinch sculpture" that showed how the structure would work to meet wind load and seismic requirements. The realistically modeled geese are connected wingtip-to-wingtip and internally reinforced to give the entire model structural stability, balance and strength. To the untrained eye, there is no distraction from their forms by invasive structural elements. The geese appear to be suspended in midair with no support but the wind beneath their wings.