

Desert Beauty in MidTown

On those rare occasions when a sudden shower enables the desert to blossom, the results are dramatic and inspiring – but necessarily brief. In Oklahoma City, however, a recent reinterpretation of that phenomenon stands to be a significantly more permanent improvement to the landscape.

St. Anthony Hospital and MidTown Renaissance cooperatively worked with the Oklahoma City Arts Commission to bring a fabulous new addition to the roundabout located at Shartel and N.W. 10th Street. Contemporary sculpture “Desert Bloom” was purchased by the Oklahoma Arts Commission in November 2008 for more than \$33,000. The beautiful work of art was located at City Hall on the West Lawn until March of 2011, when it was moved to MidTown.

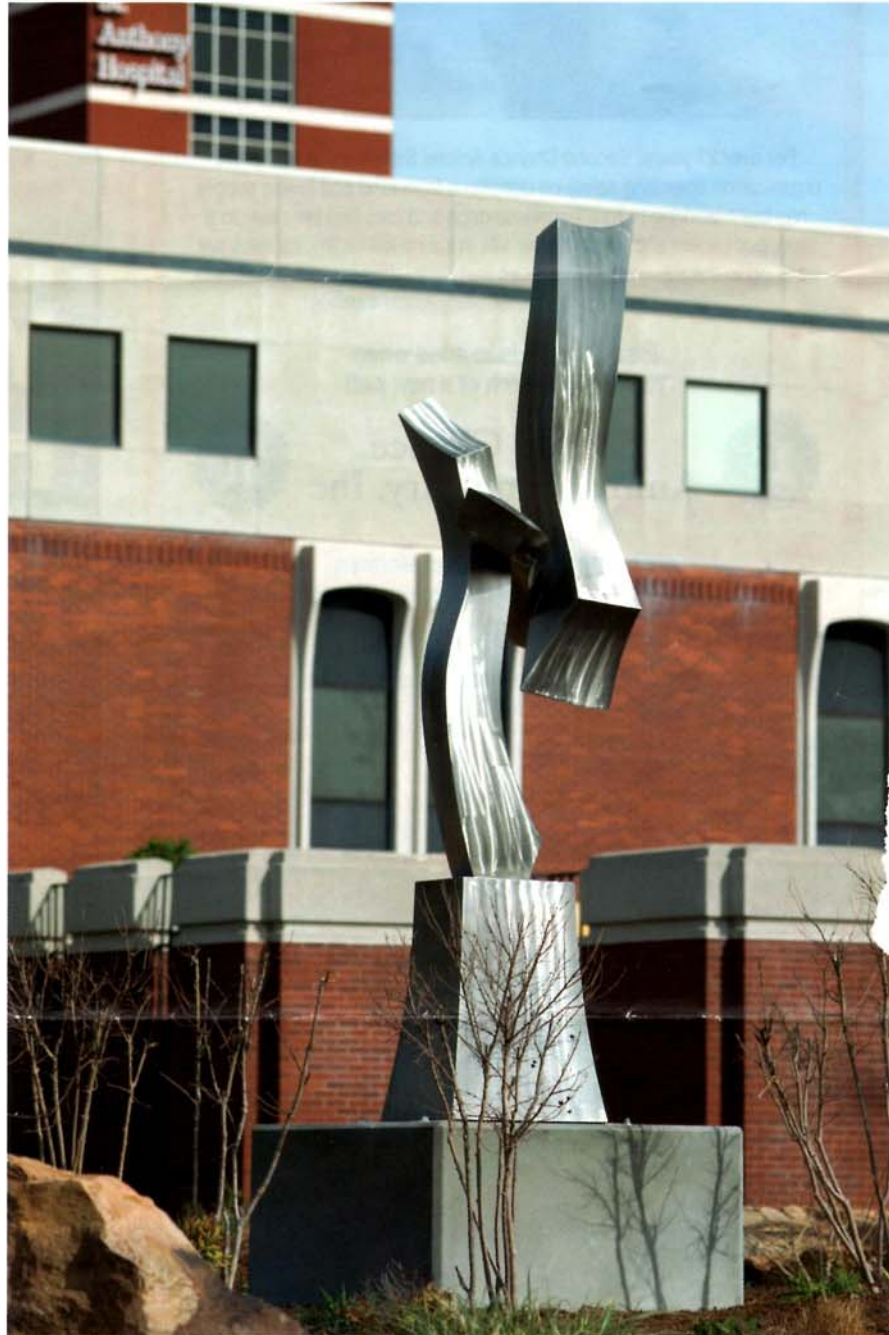
“Desert Bloom” is a soaring sculpture constructed from 10-gauge stainless steel – 91 inches tall on a 32-inch stainless steel base, for a total height of a little over 10 feet. The piece was created in 2005 by renowned Colorado artist Kevin Robb.

Robb suffered a massive stroke in 2004 that rendered him unable to talk... but his wife Diane, who serves as the executive director of Kevin Robb Studios, says he speaks through his artwork and follows the lead of the metal as it forms.

“With Kevin creating his sculptures, before and after his stroke, he usually just starts working with the metal, and the metal tells him what needs to happen,” Diane says. “He starts with a general idea, but as he is building it, it tends to form itself.”

“Kevin is always fascinated by shapes and the relationship of the different elements as they are juxtaposed [against] one another.”

Sandra Payne, Vice President of Network Communications for St. Anthony Hospital, expressed enthusiasm about the aesthetic effects “Desert Bloom” will have on the area, saying, “The presence of the artwork further reinforces the significance of the energy and development of the campus and neighborhood near St. Anthony Hospital, and enhances the beauty and healing spirit of our surroundings.”



To read more about Kevin Robb’s personal story or take a virtual tour of his fluid, intuitively designed sculptures, visit www.kevinrobb.com.