

# Public Art In Our Midsts, By Barbra Decker



## 1. Folke Filbyter by Carl Milles

1928

[Bronze]

Corner of Forsyth and Bemiston, south of City Hall

A man astride a horse—each is twisting in the opposite direction. In action, precariously positioned, hooves balanced on a small rocky outcropping. Captivated by the epic writing of Swedish author and Nobel Laureate Verner von Heidenstam, Milles depicts a dramatic moment when the mythical hero Folk Filbyter is in search of his kidnapped grandson.



## 2. Traffic Control Unit Project

A painted tree by a tree, the portrait of John Forsyth near Forsyth—plain aluminum traffic control boxes become site-specific sidewalk art pieces. Inspired by a similar project in New Mexico, the Clayton Art Commission initiated this program to transform the “everyday” into intriguing visual statements. Artists were selected after a call for applicants was issued nation-wide. During this two year project, over a dozen of these units were painted in Clayton’s central business district along Bonhomme, Brentwood, Forsyth, and Maryland.

2000: Participating Artists: Bill Kreplin, Mary Bournstein, Caleb Hauck

2001: Participating Artists: Julie Wiegand, Paul Jost, Juan Smith



## 3. Soldiers’ Memorial by unknown artist

installation date unknown

[Granite and brass]

Corner of Forsyth and Central, next to County Headquarters

With quite simplicity and simple adornment, granite blocks and an engraved brass plaque have been crafted into a memorial to the brave men and women in Clayton who died during World War I. A serene marker in a small urban park reminds us of the losses families of this community endured almost one hundred years ago.



## 4. Les Danseuses by William Severson and Saunders Schultz

1985

[Stainless steel]

Mercantile Bank, Maryland and Meramec

Curving upward, capturing and reflecting light, undulating stainless steel columns are surrounded by a cacophony of architectural styles. Art and technology come together in this kinetic sculpture designed to “dance” to the sun’s rays by responding to solar cells installed on nearby rooftops. Although this has not functioned successfully in years, it provides a lyrical contrast to the geometry of the adjacent buildings.



5. **FM6 Walking Jackman** by Ernest Trova  
1985  
(Stainless steel)  
Corner of Brentwood and Maryland

Streamlined, poised in space, the six almost life-size figures radiate from a cube—the shiny surfaces capture the ever-changing street life. Mounted on a black granite tiered base, the sculpture explores Trova’s falling man motif that he began developing in the 1960s. Featureless, without arms, the figures construct a dramatic space that we are invited to enter. This piece is one in a series of nine.



6. **New Heights** by Jane DeDecker  
2001  
(Bronze)  
Corner of Brentwood and Forsyth at Shaw Park Plaza  
Commissioned by Trammel Crow

Moving, climbing, then waiting, moving again—children at play. DeDecker uses a traditional figurative vocabulary to capture the spirit of childhood so that perhaps images of youth might linger in the viewer’s mind. In this piece, as well as others, the artist brings attention to and celebrates everyday life.



7. **The Uncertainty of Ground State Fluctuation** by Alice Ayccock  
2007  
(Structural and spun aluminum, fiberglass, and thermo-formed acrylic)  
Commissioned by the Clay on Art Commission

Capturing and activating space, a large conical form becomes a beacon sitting atop cascading aluminum sheets, ribbons, and a grid—the calligraphic energy is grounded in a circular space. It also seems to reach out to spaces beyond. A creator of large-scale semi-architectural pieces, Ayccock developed this commissioned work to reflect both the surrounding buildings as well as the activities that take place within them.



8. **Dancing Chairs** by Rod Baer  
1998  
(Welded and painted steel)  
Moved to Clayton School District in 2001

Tilted, angled, back-to-back, and sideways—red and blue chairs dance in pairs in a long row suggesting that perhaps we might want to take part in the frolic. Commissioned by Arts in Transit and the Art Fair in collaboration with the Clayton Art Commission, this lively sculpture tumbles across a lawn between the playing fields and district school buildings.



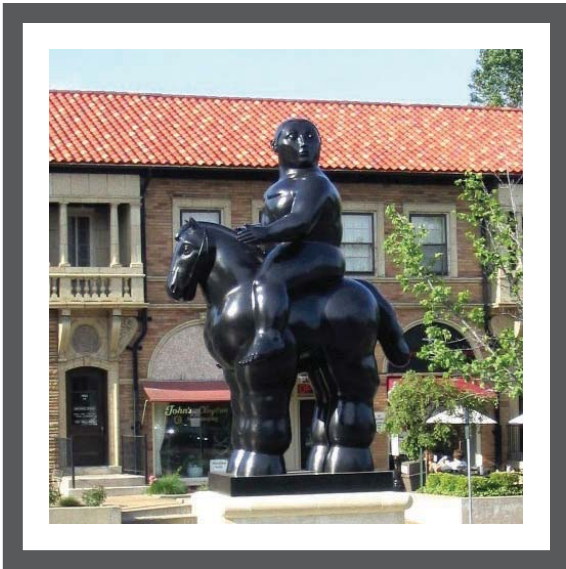
9. **Still Point** by Ruth Keller Schweiss  
1990  
[Bronze]  
Fountain centerpiece at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis, 100 Carondelet Plaza

Bursts of water, some jettisoning upwards before splashing against the group of dancers poised in the fountain. Elongated arms reach skywards as each balances on one foot while the other leg is held high above the head. In this piece by Ruth Keller Schweiss the movement of water becomes a counterpoint to the stillness of the dancers.



10. **Clayton Caryatid** by Howard Ben Tre'  
1989  
[Low-expansion glass, bronze & polished granite]  
At the Plaza in Clayton, 150 Carondelet Plaza, THF Realty

Surrounded by curb and sidewalk, a sleek, granite, glass, and bronze column sits serenely encircled by polished granite cubes. This site-specific installation both creates focus and humanizes the space near a large building while also providing temporary seating. Ben Tres' commented that "the sculpture...anchors the space" and at night "the glass 'head' will be a beacon welcoming residents to sit and enjoy."



11. **Man on a Horse** by Artist Fernando Botero  
1999  
[Bronze]  
Located at Hanley Road & Wydown Boulevard

Both playful and statuesque, *Man on a Horse*, is that and much more. Botero takes the idea of the monumental equestrian statue most often used to honor heroes and transforms it into an imposing and whimsical statement by using the exaggerated rounded forms frequently found in the folk art. A commanding presence at a major intersection, this sculpture is rapidly moving into the category of an area landmark. On long-term loan from the Gateway Foundation.



12. **Youth** by Todd Frahm  
2003  
[Carved Bedford limestone]  
In Wydown Park just east of Hanley/Wydown intersection

Smooth, rough, and precisely incised at the same time—Frahm's *Acorn* draws attention to something very small, often overlooked, and frequently crunched under foot. Situated at the edge of an open play area in the park, the five foot high limestone sculpture draws attention to the abundance of nature in everyday life. It was commissioned by the Clayton Art Commission.