



THIS SCULPTURE represents the life blood of Clearwater and the Travel Plaza - transportation in modern-day form. It was created specially for the Plaza by artist Nasser Pirasteh of Clearwater.

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Nuts, bolts, twisted eyebeam take on significance for Plaza

By Mary Jo Mosher
Editor

Nuts, bolts, steel, tar, cement and yellow paint.

These materials can be associated with the making of roads and bridges. But sculptor Nasser Pirasteh of Clearwater used many of them to create a work of art.

Pirasteh created a sculpture to be displayed in front of the remodeled Clearwater Travel Plaza. The theme appropriately centers around the Plaza's sustenance - transportation - which has been important to the area since the days of the old ferry boats which existed at Clearwater many years ago.

Created mostly of twisted eyebeam, the work represents highway, railroad, guard rails, overpass, underpass, and bridges. The yellow represents the marking on the highway. "Nuts and bolts are what you see on every bridge and every highway," Pirasteh said.

The theme is also important because

transportation is the Plaza's business and the Plaza exists because of its strategic location on 2 heavily traveled highways, one of them a freeway with an overpass, underpass, bridge, and cloverleaf, all represented in the sculpture. These components facilitate present-day traffic.

Pirasteh, a full-time artist, finished his education in art at St. Cloud State University. He settled in Clearwater 11 years ago. "I like the area," he said. "It's nice, quiet, healthy." He lives on 6 acres. His art is sold to people who come to him from all over the United States.

"Most of my work has a philosophy and background behind it," Pirasteh said. "The meaning of the project is the most important." Fifty percent of the amount of work going into an art piece is the mental planning, he said. "The rest is doing it. You keep working at it until you're happy with it."