



James Clover

American, b.1938

Sculpture with Stars

Steel, 1992

Gift of SP Corporation, Chris Kearny, and Patrick O'Leary

Collection of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, 2007

Sculpture with Stars by James Clover was originally purchased by SPX in 1992 and installed at the round-about structure at the entrance of the then-new headquarters of SPX, the bronze "pyramid" which was built in 1989 on the shoreline of Muskegon Lake, as the headquarters of SPX until the Muskegon company moved to Charlotte, N.C. in 2001.

In 2007, made possible by the leadership and philanthropy of SPX Chief Executive Officer Christopher Kearney and Chief Financial Officer Patrick O'Leary, the sculpture was donated to the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and moved to its current location in front of the Post Office, anchoring the new Federal Square, which is now a wonderful community gathering space complete with a splash pad and Stuart Padnos' whimsical, large scale, bright yellow *Humpty Dumpty*.

James Clover was born in Iowa in 1938. An internationally known sculptor and consummate academician, he taught drawing and sculpture for 30 years. His work is almost exclusively steel or bronze constructions with various welding, paint, and burnishing treatments. The whimsical forms are often a riotous chaos of white geometric shapes that climb into the air. Several U.S. cities boast sculpture parks which host the work of both Clover and, like Alexander Calder, Clover's creations are no strangers to college campuses. In 1998, a major Clover installation was completed by Emory University in Atlanta; GVSU is home to his work as well. Clover's sculptures are usually made of bronze and steel to form shapes that build upon each other to reach towards the sky. A major work by Clover can be seen on GVSU's campus on the outdoor plaza between Zumberge and Lake Huron Hall; Clover's other works found on GVSU's campuses are located in Allendale near Mackinac Hall, the Zumberge Administration building, downtown near the Eberhard Center, and at GVSU's Holland campus.

The now 80 year-old artist, who lives and works in Ecuador, has focused primarily on sculpture and drawing throughout his career. Clover says he thinks of his art in terms of music and each piece is deeply rooted in and highly inspired by the movement called Symbolism (1886) and more precisely its esoteric-mysticism. Symbolism is addressed to the human spirit and imagination and Symbolists consider Art as an ethical experience more than a visual one. The hidden goal of art is to discover the secret side of things, hence, the figure is only a pretext to uncover more. Symbolists like James Clover are deeply inhabited by nature, but represent it as a dream, their aesthetic becoming fantastic and imaginary.