

Town LINKs



Another part of SICA's "Sculpt: a celebration of all things chiseled, shaped and formed" event. is displayed at the corner of Union Avenue and Liberty Street.



"Balancing Man," by Bob Mataranglo, atop the Investors Savings & Loan building on Broadway, downtown, is a real eyecatcher. The artwork is part of SICA's "Sculpt: a celebration of all things chiseled, shaped and formed" event.



At left is Bob Mataranglo's "Balancing Man" on top of Investors Saving and Loan on Broadway. Above, is a sculpture erected on Liberty Street in honor of day workers. It had been removed by DPW workers the day before as they didn't know what it was. When they learned about their mistake, they put it back up.

A Different View *By Adam Schneider*

Art for Yankee Fans

If the drag queens had been on time I might have missed Chin Mien Wong's almost perfect game. Of all the opening sentences in all the columns I've ever written I'm willing to bet that is the lead that most requires an explanation.

Doug Ferrari is the director of the Shore Institute for Contemporary Art (SICA), the organization that has organized Sculpt, a celebration of all things chiseled, shaped and formed. SICA is the reason all the works of art have been appearing around the city the last week. Saturday afternoon was the outdoor kickoff at Pier Village. Doug told me that the drag queens hair sculpture, beginning at around 4:30, would be the biggest attraction of the day. The earlier performances

and the pieces of sculpture placed around the city were provocative, so that meant that we had something special to look forward to.

The Car Music Project, a band whose instruments are sculpted from car parts, had played. White Wave had performed, a kinetic dance in which the dancers were wrapped up in 40 feet of white stretchy fabric that was attached to the Pier Village gazebo. Then, over the course of an hour, they slowly unraveled while striking various poses. Lots of walkers stopped and stared, wondering what was going on.

Kids were kept busy making bowls on the potter's wheel, and in a classic sculptor's activity, chipping at a large stone with a hammer and chisel.

I had helped give out the awards to the winners in the high

school sculpture and the sand sculpting contest, and the event was winding down and the drag queens hadn't arrived, it was 4:30 already and I had to go out again at night, so I decided to head home.

I did drive home via Broadway to see Bob Mataranglo's Balancing Man on top of Investor's Savings and Loan, one of the works that will remain posted around the city until November. It wasn't there on Friday because I would have noticed. I started laughing as soon as I saw it, and it's a great piece.

The past week started with a call from Doug about a missing piece of art. Sculpture for Day Laborers by Dahlia Elsayed, had been erected at the site of the community garden on Liberty Street, only to disappear. Turns out that the police and Department of Public Works didn't know what it was so they pulled it out and brought the sculpture down to the public works yard.

After Doug called me, police investigated, the work was brought back and reinstalled. Everyone involved in the removal and restoration now thinks differently about what constitutes art. The day laborers who watched got a kick out of the whole process.

I got home, turned on the game and Wang was perfect. I've seen two perfect games and several close calls. David Wells's gem against Minnesota in 1998, and David Cone's masterpiece against Montreal the next year. Tom Seaver took one into the ninth against the Cubs in 1969 only to have Jimmy Qualls break that up with one out. There have been only sixteen in major league history.

I had two events Saturday evening but wasn't going anywhere until the game was over. In the seventh inning Wang fell behind 3-0 to one batter and came back to get the out. Matsui made a nice running catch of a drive by Ichiro Suzuki for another out.

Wang retired 21 straight going into the eighth.

It was past six o'clock and I was late when Ben Broussard smacked a ball over the fence in right field breaking up the perfect game, no-hitter and shutout on one pitch. Wang finished the inning, and the Yankees won the game 8-1.

Friday night had been the exact opposite of Saturday's brilliantly pitched game. The Yankees had taken a five run lead, only to lose 15-11. That debacle has been typical of the Yankee pitching staff so far this season. Wang, along with Mike Mussina and Phil Hughes are Yankee pitchers recovering from hamstring injuries and their good pitching is essential if the Yankees are to get into a pennant race this summer.

Wang has been recently designated by Time magazine as one of the hundred most influential people in the world. Being one of the first from his country to pitch in the major leagues, he is part of

making baseball a very international game. Millions of his countrymen get up in the middle of the night to watch him pitch, and maybe Americans look at the game a little differently as baseball becomes even more international. Art stretches our minds even if all we do is wonder what it is we are looking at. We have a couple of months of both baseball and art to look forward to.