

The Dalton Daily Citizen

"Public encouraged to attend sculpture installation"

The Creative Arts Guild

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Austrian sculptor **Caroline Ramersdorfer**, whose work was showcased at the Beijing Olympics, will install a marble and steel sculpture on Monday at the Robert T. Webb Sculpture Garden of the Creative Arts Guild.

A dedication and reception for the artist will be held at the Guild at 5 pm where Mayor David Pennington will present Ramersdorfer with a key to the city followed by a reception in the Guild's main gallery. The dedication and reception are free and open to the public.

Ramersdorfer's untitled work consists of five carved white marble sections perched on a polished stainless steel frame and stands seven feet high by four feet wide by five feet deep. This is Ramersdorfer's first marble work in the United States as a part of a permanent public art program.

"North Georgia has long been known for its marble and granite," said Webb, founder of the sculpture garden. "I wanted to include a piece of carved marble among the sculptures to reflect our local heritage and to highlight the skill necessary to create a work of art from stone. I was struck by Caroline's exquisite carving techniques and her ability to use her chosen medium to articulate her vision. It is an honor to include a sculpture by an artist of her considerable talent and stature in the garden."



"Untitled Marble" by Caroline Ramersdorfer

Technically, Ramersdorfer's sculptures begin with blocks of marble, which she slices into sheets and then carves into solids and voids, creating framing sections that are highly textured as well as crisscrossed spindles with elegant, polished surfaces. Philosophically, she has called her work **"soul architectures that reflect and provoke and approach into an inner world (where) transparency and openings allow light to be a significant part of their presence, making visible intermediate spaces."**

"My approach to sculpture is a continuous challenge to create a bridge between art, world culture and the substance of human experience," said Ramersdorfer. "The choice of materials generates a dialogue between the environment and the ideas."



A piece by Austrian sculptor Caroline Ramersdorfer, whose work was showcased at the Beijing Olympics, was dedicated as the newest contribution to the Robert T. Webb Sculpture Garden at the Creative Arts Guild on Monday. (Misty Watson/The Daily Citizen)



Ramersdorfer speaks during a reception where her marble and steel sculpture was unveiled. The sculpture is untitled. (Misty Watson/The Daily Citizen)



Ramersdorfer is given a key to the city by Dalton Mayor David Pennington. (Misty Watson/The Daily Citizen)



Ramersdorfer peers through her sculpture. (Misty Watson/The Daily Citizen)

An acclaimed artist in her native land and around the world, Ramersdorfer has participated in almost 40 expositions on four continents as well as contributing to more than 15 international sculpture symposia. Since 1986 she has been commissioned to create a number of large scale site-specific sculptures installed in permanent private and public art collections across Europe and in Japan, Taiwan, China, Canada, Egypt, the United States and Dubai, where she was awarded first prize at the 2005 Emaar International Art Symposium.

In 2006 she won the Golden Award at the Renaissance and Rising International City of Sculpture and Cultural Year in Zhengzhou, China, and the same year she received the merit award for the Beijing Olympic Sculpture where her sculpture **"Seed of a Unified Spirit"** has been permanently installed between the Bird's Nest Stadium and the Water Cube since 2008.

Ramersdorfer has received grants from the Austrian Ministry of Art and Education in Vienna to work and study in Japan (1991-92) and in New York City (1993). In 1998 she was awarded a grant from the Federal Chancellery in Vienna and UNESCO in Paris for Project Carambolage, an arts and cultural exchange between four artists from the Caribbean and four Viennese artists. The Austrian Ministry of Art and Education also provided support for Ramersdorfer's multimedia project **Inner Views** (2001), which served as a retrospective of 10 years of work and study in Japan. The exhibit, which traveled from Austria to Germany and Japan, melded

sculpture, video, photography, poetry, calligraphy and music.

The artist's work is included in four museum collections in her native Austria and three museum collections in Japan. Her work is also part of the public art collections of the cities of Vienna, Zhengzhou and Beijing and in sculpture parks in Urumqi and Ordos City, China. Recent public installations include large scale works in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Fuerteventura, Spain, and Lana, Italy.

Ramersdorfer's first permanent piece of public art in the United States was installed in Kettering, Ohio (a suburb of Dayton), in 2002 as a part of an international stone sculpture symposium. The sculpture, carved from a solid piece of Indiana limestone, sits at the entrance of the community's Rosewood Arts Center.

"We are thrilled to have **Caroline Ramersdorfer** in Dalton to install her work," said Terry Tomasello, the Creative Arts Guild's executive director.

"This is a beautiful work and everyone will be able to appreciate the painstaking process of carving the marble into such subtle and arresting forms," said Tomasello. "This work is a wonderful addition to the Robert T. Webb Sculpture Garden, and Robert has committed to expanding the garden's collection for the enjoyment of everyone in our area and all those who visit Dalton."

Tomasello added that she hopes members of the community will greet Ramersdorfer during the reception and express their appreciation to the artist.

"Think about it," said Tomasello. "This artist's work is in public spaces in Vienna, Beijing, Cairo, and now Dalton can say that her elegant and sophisticated work is a part of our local sculpture garden. That's certainly a cause for celebration."

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