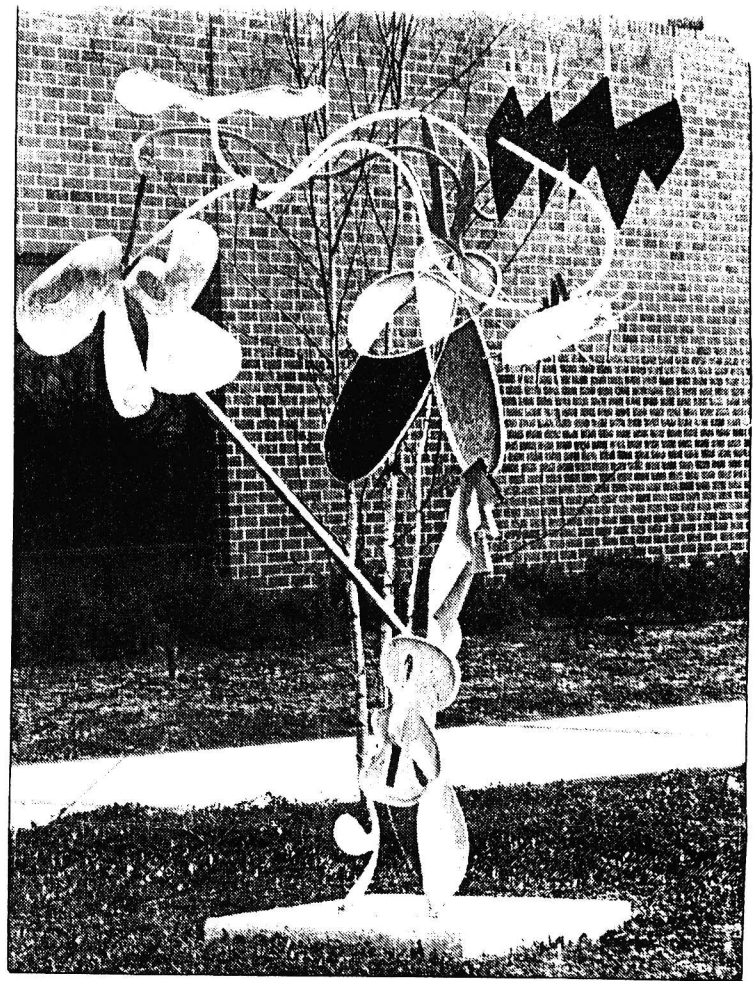


Art in park is not just for a lark



By JEFF STOREY

Economic Development Editor

CRYSTAL RUN — Art met commerce at an Orange County business park yesterday, leaving some onlookers a little disoriented in the wake of their embrace.

Two large abstract sculptures, purchased for \$40,000, were unveiled at the Crystal Run Corporate Park outside Middletown.

The colorful, welded steel pieces by Peter Reginato of New York City will remain on display permanently at the business park being developed by the Herbert Albert Co. of New York City.

Such use of art in commercial settings is common in large cities but unusual, if not unique, in Orange County.

"For Mike Green" (128 x 56 x 43 inches) has been placed next to the plaza at 90 Crystal Run Road in the town of Walkill.

"Yardbird in Lotus Land" (105 x 80 x 53 inches) is across the street, at the entryway of 75 Crystal Run Road.

"It really is a delight to be able to include this kind of art and this kind of ideas into an office setting," said James Albert, a principal in Herbert Albert Co.

Albert said the acquisitions enhance the "park" aspect of the development, a possible selling point for potential tenants.

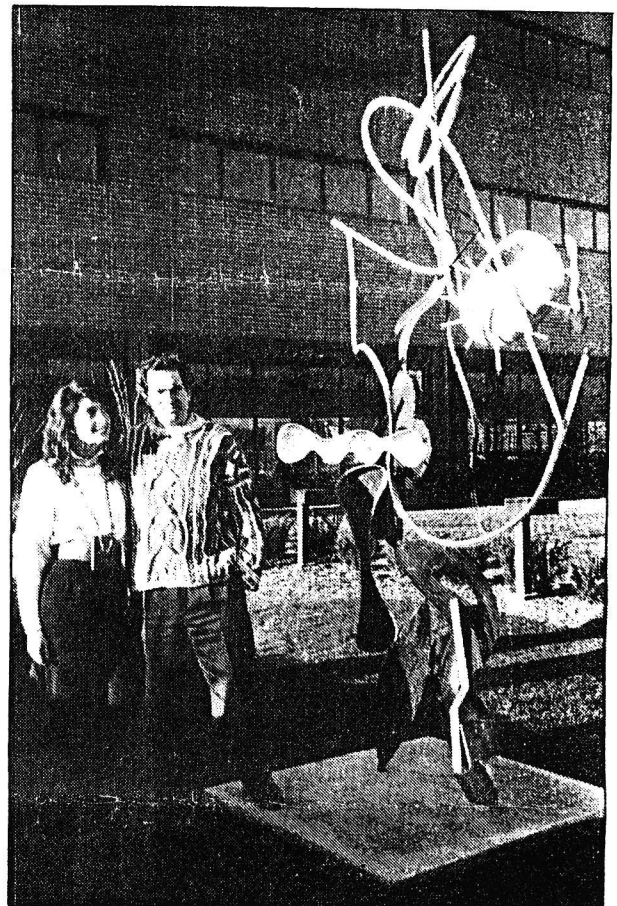
Other art purchases will be made as more buildings are erected at the 150-acre development. The Albert Co. has leased 160,000 of what is projected as 1.5 million square feet of office space.

Business and cultural leaders invited to a brief early morning ceremony at the park praised the Alberts' commitment to culture, although some said their own artistic tastes ran in different directions.

"It's not something I'd want in my back yard," said County Executive Louis Heimbach, "but I can appreciate the creativity that went into it."

"It's interesting to look at it and try to figure out what he meant," said Sherwood Levitan, president of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce.

"If it were an eagle sitting out there, I'd probably like it more," said Walkill Councilman Thomas Nosworthy.



Record photos by Mike Carey

Sculptor Peter Reginato and his wife, Felecia, stand beside "For Mike Green." Top photo, Reginato's sculpture "Yardbird in Lotus Land."

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However, Charles Pickering, executive director of the Arts Council of Orange County, said, "it's very high-quality work" by an up-and-coming artist.

Reginato himself said his work had a "very upbeat" quality.

"I see the work as having a very lyrical quality in it, a sort of a flow," he said.

Wheldon Abt, Albert's architect, said Reginato's pieces "add a degree of humanity and interest you can't do with just a building. It encourages liveliness."

Reginato was born in Dallas, Texas, in 1945 and reared in California. His works have been exhibited at

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New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Boston Museum of Art, and the Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C.

The Storm King Arts Center in Cornwall owns several samples of his early works. "I am sure his work will look fascinating in that setting (Crystal Run)," said Storm King director David Collens.

Reginato said he was thrilled by the Crystal Run sale. There apparently isn't a big demand for sculpture that is too large to fit into most people's living room.

The two pieces bought by Crystal Run were left over from a Chicago art show.

According to a catalogue from that exhibit, "Reginato has turned up the sound in these 10 new pieces. His lively assemblages of riffs and rhythms have been intensified by bolder use of color, more variety in his vocabulary of shapes, and the deft adaptation of new elements."

Reginato said each piece took a month's work, and required several thousand dollars in material and labor. He uses a very sophisticated auto paint, so the Crystal Run works "should hold up very well" in the elements.