

April 22, 2009

Putting art on a pedestal *Star report*



Egenolf Contracting & Rigging employee Tom Whipps hands Mark Gibson a towel while inside the new sculpture called "littlebird" that was installed outside of the Central Library today.
- MATT DETRICK / The Star

Ninety-one years after first opening its doors, Downtown's Central Library put the finishing touches on its entrance today with the addition of two pedestal sculptures.

The artwork flanks the main entrance to the original Cret Building on St. Clair Street. Such sculptures are a common sight at municipal buildings, and it always was intended for there to be artwork greeting visitors. But funds ran short when the library opened in 1917, and the spaces remained empty -- until now.

California artist Peter Shelton's bronze work, "thinmanlittlebird," consists of a tall, spidery figure on the west pedestal and a round, inverted figure suspended above the east pedestal. The \$750,000 sculptures were privately funded by local arts advocates Ann and Chris Stack and the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Foundation. A local committee chaired by Bret Waller, director emeritus of the Indianapolis Museum of Art, unanimously selected Shelton after reviewing the works of 60 artists from around the world.