Stickwork

VFTH

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Mother Nature is the star of the show in the latest construction on WKU’s campus.

Amy Bingham has details of an environmental sculpture that has taken shape in front of the Kentucky Museum in this week’s View from the Hill.

Calling the woods his warehouse, an award winning artist has brought his ability to create an exhibit entirely from tree branches to WKU’s campus as part of the Cultural Enhancement Series.

Kaitlyn Heuser \ Elizabethtown Junior

Patrick Dougherty \ Stickwork Artist

Leslie Weigel \ Cultural Enhancement Series Advisory Board

Lynne Ferguson \ Kentucky Museum

“It is amazing when you get in there. It’s almost kind of whimsical. Reminds me of ferries.”

Junior Kaitlyn Heuser is describing this wooden exhibit located in the heart of campus.

She’s excited to have some skin in the game. Her sculpture class is helping prep the branches.

“It’s really exciting to have experience with the artist too and it kind of gives you a sense of importantness I guess. “

The artist is Patrick Dougherty from North Carolina.

“For the past thirty years, really 35 years I’ve worked every day as a sculptor and I’ve made a living at it which is a big thing for an artist.”

There was a two year waiting list for Dougherty he’s now here as part of WKU’s Cultural Enhancement Series.

“He’s so mellow, he’s so easy going, supportive and encouraging.”

Guiding campus and community volunteers in the three week long project.

“It’s just so great to be doing something physical that helps to create a work of art.”

At the site visit, Dougherty identified a path to the Kentucky Museum as the perfect location.

“The idea of making some gatehouses that work their way down that walkway and give the opportunity to walk through the piece and see it in four different increments.”

It’s taken a lot of coordination….

“It’s a big project and there’s a lot of moving parts. Logistics have been incredible.”

And a lot of teamwork

And for students like Kaitlyn it’s provided a unique opportunity outside the classroom.

“When we get to have hands on experiences like this it’s so neat. It’s my favorite part about being at Western.”

An opening reception for the Stickwork Project will be held tomorrow night at 5:30 in the Kentucky room of the Kentucky building. The sculpture will be in place for up to three years.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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