

# Weaver St. adds sculpture of steel 'Mother and Child'

By SUSAN BROILI  
The Chapel Hill Herald

CARRBORO — A "Mother and Child" appear on Weaver Street just in time for Christmas.

Molly Sawyer's circular steel and concrete sculpture, "Mother and Child," is the newest edition to the Art on Weaver display of sculptures in yards of businesses along the street.

Her abstract work, in which a large head form bends protectively over a small head form, joins another sculptural work, "Time Passage," in the yard of Kitchen Media at 205 Weaver St.

"Time Passage," by Virginia Bullman and LaNelle Davis, depicts two larger-than-life female figures whose outstretched arms form an archway.

"I think they have a kind of relationship," James Morgan said of the two installations.

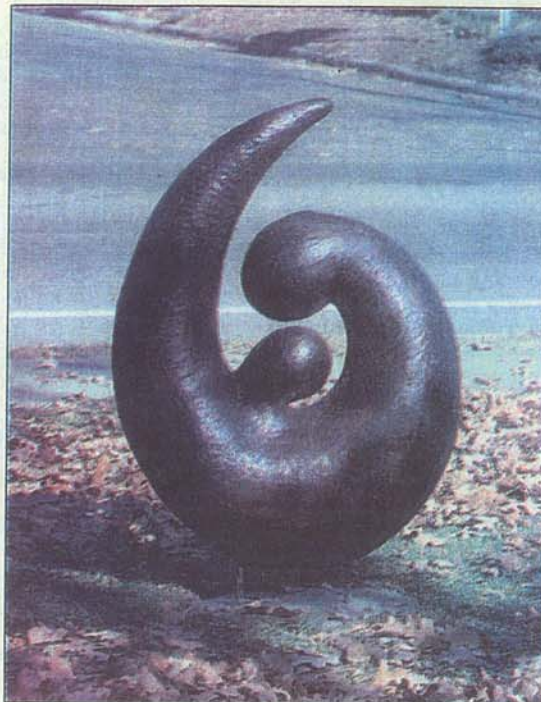
Morgan, a residential designer, started the non-profit Public Gallery of Carrboro two years ago to organize the ongoing sculptural exhibition on the street.

Both works feature female figures that represent cycles of life, he said.

"Both are about things which are fixed and don't change," Morgan said.

In "Time Passage," artists used concrete and mosaics in cool and warm colors to create female figures that represent night and day.

"In a world of changes ... there are still 24 hours in a day," Morgan said. "It gets dark, and it gets light again."



The Herald-Sun/BILL WILLCOX

**'MOTHER AND CHILD':** A new steel sculpture by Molly Sawyer adorns the Weaver Street roadside. The piece is part of the ongoing public art display sponsored by the Public Gallery of Carrboro, a nonprofit organization.

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## SCULPTURE

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People also refer to nature's cycles when speaking of their own lives, Morgan said, saying "People talk about the sunset of their lives, the dawn of a new age."

As for Sawyer's work: "We've all got mothers. That's not going to change either," he said. "It's pretty fundamental to what we are and what makes our existence possible."

The addition of Sawyer's sculpture should add to the already positive response that "Time Passage" has brought to the site, Morgan said.

"I think it has a kind of calming presence," he said of "Time Passage."

"Everybody loves the two figures," he said. "People are crazy about that. It's a fabulous piece."

"It seems to make a connection with people's lives. It is somehow a healing presence. ... It

somehow takes you out of preoccupations you have."

The aim to add such art to people's daily lives prompted Morgan to start the Art on Weaver project in June 1997 when 30 sculptures found temporary homes on Weaver Street.

By placing art in the public domain, Morgan wants to increase appreciation, resulting in favorite works finding permanent homes in public spaces.

On Carrboro Day in May, people voted for their favorite works and, with the help of businesses, have provided most of the funding to purchase two works: Bullman and Davis' "Ready & Waiting," a concrete woman seated as though waiting for a bus, and Mike Roig's "Pressure Release I, II, III," three white, steel birds.

The woman figure, known as "Louise," now sits between two crape myrtles in the side yard of Frank Cole Building Co., right where she was first exhibited.

Roig's birds now grace the Weaver Street Market lawn.

But funds are still \$1,500 short of the needed \$8,000 purchase price for the two works, so the Public Gallery of Carrboro still is accepting donations, Morgan said.

People wanting to help should call Morgan at 932-7525.

A second exhibition went up this June and added about 14 new sculptures to the street. Like the first Art on Weaver installation, these sculptures will remain for a year and then people will get to vote for, and hopefully help purchase, their favorites, Morgan said.