

April 6, 2015

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RE: Celeron, NY sculpture of Lucille Ball

As sculptor of the Lucille Ball sculpture in Celeron, NY, I feel compelled to write this letter. I just returned home after spending some quality, quiet time with my family and was a bit surprised to the extent of all the news pertaining to the Celeron "Lucy" sculpture. I have been bombarded by calls, texts and emails from all over the world and deservingly so, most of it not very flattering. I take full responsibility for "Scary Lucy" though by no means was that my intent or did I wish to disparage in any way the memories of the iconic Lucy image.

From the day of its installation, I have shared my disappointment in the final outcome and have always believed it to be by far my most unsettling sculpture, not befitting of Lucy's beauty or my ability as a sculptor. Yes, in retrospect, it should have never been cast in bronze and made public, and I take complete ownership of that poor decision.

Originally, this sculpture started out as a private endeavor for Mark and Jetta Wilson over ten years ago. (Sorry Mark and Jetta if this has caused you any grief) Mark and Jetta are friends who were very supportive and helpful in the early part of my career. They later donated the sculpture to the community of Celeron.

About five years ago I first approached the Mayor to discuss redoing the sculpture. Since then, I have had several conversations and correspondences with Celeron expressing my desire and willingness to remove and redo Lucy. I am still willing to do the work and I will make the offer to cover the expenses to do so. I understand if the community is upset and had suggested years ago they remove the sculpture so as not to continue to anger people. It puzzles me when an art work is donated to a community, they accept it, and then get angry and insist you redo the art work at your own expense. To create a life-size bronze is a very time consuming and expensive endeavor. I am willing to put my time and money into redoing the Lucy sculpture and feel confident after ten years I can do a much better job. I only wish I had moved more quickly in making the situation right.

I am very proud of a large body of sculpture work I have created over the years. Not every piece is a grand slam and my style of work is not for everyone, but for thirty years, I have put myself in the arena, diligently worked hard to improve my skills and be creative in my work. I have always challenged myself to do work that takes me out of my comfort zone. I make no excuses, and I try to improve and learn from shortcomings and only hope to continue to improve. That being said, there were many elements of this project that I personally struggled with both

internally and externally. Unfortunately, at the point in my life when I created the Lucille Ball sculpture, now over ten years ago, I came up short, and was not able to rise to the challenge. Over the years, I have felt blessed to have inspired and touched the lives of thousands of people who do enjoy my other works, and am heartsick at the feelings that have been evoked as a result of the Celeron Lucy. I make no premise or laud myself to be a “great” artist or think by any means that my work should be in a museum. I am a down to earth, hard worker from a humble back ground. I enjoy what I do, and if a handful of decent folks can find some enjoyment in my work, I am OK with that.

In the meantime, I will, once again, be making contact with the Village of Celeron and offer to remove the current statue with the promise of creating a new beautiful and charming “Lucy” in its place.

Humbly,
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