

Applied Sciences Center

title

Start to Finish

artist

George Greenamyre

Location:

Applied Sciences Center

Material:

Steel

Size:

17 feet high

Date:

1991

Made possible through:

**Iowa Art in State
Buildings Program**



About the Sculpture

Iowa State's Applied Sciences Center on Scholl Road (northwest of the Iowa State campus) houses a unique forum for cooperation between the university and industry. Here minds meet to apply the pure science and research knowledge gained at Iowa State to real life applications in business. The activities at the Center revolve as one challenge is resolved and a new problem, with its own experts and resources, moves in. This activity is the theme George Greenamyre focuses on in his sculpture *Start to Finish*. He portrays a project starting with the testing of raw materials and concluding with a finished product for sale, in this case a tractor. Through research and development, a prototype is created and tested before reaching the final stage. Then, following the sculpture's circular base, the process



begins again just as it does within the building. Since most of the research taking place at the Center is not accessible to the public, Greenamyre is using his work of art to tell of the happenings inside. Additionally, the grounds of the Center are not always open. As a general rule the public may view the sculpture during regular business hours Monday through Friday.

**University Museums/Art on Campus Program
Iowa State University**

Ames, Iowa

Artist's Comments

First and foremost I consider myself a straight forward narrative public art sculptor.

Much of my inspiration comes from structural engineering, Shaker furniture, folk art, Jules Verne, Yankee tinkering, military hardware, architecture, and various visual utopias produced by naive artists.

My work has a multi-level aesthetic, narrative, and concept that can be understood by the non-art person as well as the esoteric critic.

The sculpture *Start to Finish* is composed of four sculptural figure groups. Each relates a part of the story telling of the role of the Applied Sciences Center at Iowa State University. While the individual product development will continue to vary, the partnership of academia and business will remain constant.

The narrative begins with the receiving of raw materials from the earth for analysis and testing. Three miners are bringing a Euclid truck full of soil to a scientist who puts a stethoscope on the contents. The second figurative group illustrates the development of the raw materials into a prototype project. A welder uses a MIG (metal inert gas) welding machine, and he faces a machinist who is carrying a dial caliper. The third group presents the prototype product for further testing. A scientist is at the computer, running tests with the aid of a lab assistant. And finally in the last sculptural group the final product is being delivered. The lab president and technician are handing over a tractor to a representative of the John Deere Company.

George Greenamyre

More About the Artist

Baker, John. "George Greenamyre at Stewart Neil."

Art in America. January 1982: 145-146.

Chandler, John. "George Greenamyre: Public Art Celebrating

America's Working Class." *Sculpture*. March/April 1988: 16-18.

START TO FINISH

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Additional information about *Start to Finish*, other Art on Campus information sheets, and Art on Campus maps are available at the University Museums office 290 Scheman Building (2nd Floor) 515/294-3342, or visit us online at <http://www.museums.iastate.edu/>

*The **Iowa Art in State Buildings Program** was enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa (Chapter 304A, Code 1979. Sections 8-14) to provide for the inclusion of fine arts projects in state building construction projects in cooperation with the Iowa Arts Council. At Iowa State University, the Art in State Buildings Program is administered by University Museums.

This information sheet is intended to be used in addition to viewing the Art on Campus. At no time should this sheet be used as a substitute for experiencing the art in person!

Applied Science

(inspired by George Greenamyre's Start to Finish)

Because three left turns make a right,
and the way down is the way up,
the way in the way out,
but most of all because
the beginning is the end,
where we are going looks
remarkably like where we've been,
ourselves growing small
headed out for the horizon,
looming large coming back,
smug with solutions
for such easy puzzles,
devising a machine to settle everything,
immense in our littleness,
tinkering with the world.

Neal Bowers, 1992
Ames, Iowa