

Iowa State University Child Care Center at
Veterinary Medicine

*My World is so full of
Many Things*
Sticks

title

artist

Location:
**University Child Care
Center**

Material:
**wood, acrylic paint,
woodburning**

Size:
variable

Date:
1997

Made possible by:
***Iowa Art in State
Buildings Program**

Collection:
**Art on Campus Collection,
University Museums,
Iowa State University**



*detail, My World is so full of Many
Things*

About the Project

Designed by Sticks co-founder Sarah Grant-Hutchison, *My World is so full of Many Things* is a blending of art and architecture, with designs and words woodburned or painted directly onto existing architectural elements such as walls, pillars, and furniture. The Child Care Center's project design statement expressed a desire to integrate the public art into the building, making sure the art was at the fingertips of the children who would be using the Center and creating a "stimulating and secure environment." The aim was to make the art accessible for children to interact with on a daily basis, helping them develop an appreciation for the arts from a young age. *My World is so full of Many Things* incorporates a wide range of textures, shapes, sizes, views, details, and colors into the facility, which is licensed to care for 84 infant to school age children. The works of art are meant to be touched and experienced. Executed by a team of eight woodburners and painters, the works of art blend woodburning, writing, and painting on wood, walls, and furniture.

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

Sticks avoided using pure primary colors (red, blue, and yellow) which are typically associated with children, and instead chose bright rainbow colors. Themes which encourage reading, learning, exploration, and feeling good about yourself and the world run throughout the work of art, with phrases such as "ask questions," "look forward," "reach for stars," and "dream of the big big world" found on chairs, desks, and window sills. *My World is so full of Many Things* can be viewed by appointment during the Child Care Center's regular business hours, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call the Child Care Center at 294-2273 to set up an appointment.

Artist's statement

"We wanted to create a fun space for children to interact with the world around them and make them feel good about themselves. With the mirrors, benches, bulletin board, and snake rail, we focus on their world.

We try to have a fun, motivational, inspiring, fresh outlook in everything we do. Lots of people at first think our designs are just whimsical, but it's a sophisticated whimsy. There is a lot of thought in the words and positive motivational perspectives. The simplicity in our designs also goes along with that [whimsy]."

***Jim Lueders,
Sticks Co-founder
October 1997***

Other Commissions by Sticks

Blank Children's Hospital lobby, emergency room, and ambulatory;
Des Moines, Iowa; 1994-1996

Cabo San Lucas Restaurant; Des Moines, Iowa; 1995

Dr. Kenneth Talcott, Pediatrics Office; Des Moines, Iowa; 1993

detail, My World is so full of Many Things

About the Artists

In 1985, Sarah Grant-Hutchison, an abstract painter, was asked to create a design for a wooden nativity for a *Better Homes and Gardens* woodworkers magazine. Although she had no experience with woodworking, she accepted the challenge and soon began selling the popular nativities and other Christmas items to supplement her income.

Sarah met Jim Lueders, a former building contractor, while speaking at a local college. Soon, Jim became Sarah's business partner, helping to paint and construct her nativities.

In 1991, *Better Homes and Gardens* once again featured Sarah's work, attracting a tremendous national response. As a result, Sarah and Jim incorporated their Des Moines-based company as Sticks Inc. and expanded their product line to include mirrors, furniture, and large sculpture. Sticks has also designed and installed interiors for restaurants, hospitals, and schools, and their works are featured in approximately 100 galleries throughout the United States. No longer just Sarah and Jim, Sticks is operated by a team of 45 craft artisans out of an old Des Moines warehouse. Favorite themes in their work include "Life is sweet," "My mama told me," and "love, love, crazy love."

Sarah Grant-Hutchison was born in 1953 in Rochester, New York. She was raised in Ames, Iowa and received her BFA in drawing and intaglio printmaking from the University of Iowa in 1976. Sarah also holds two MFAs, in intaglio printmaking (1978) and painting (1980), from the University of Iowa. She taught at Iowa State University from 1980-1989, and has been awarded numerous grants and awards for her works of art.

Jim Lueders was born in 1953 in Algona, Iowa. He attended Des Moines Area Community College and Drake University, and was the owner of Lueders Roofing and Contracting from 1980-1991.

My World is so full of Many Things

Additional information on *My World is so full of Many Things*, 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!

My World is so full of Many Things - Individual Pieces

1. Reception Area:

Desk - *Seasons*
Two Lamps - *So many Reasons to Read*
Two Benches with handpainted fabric - *Untitled*
Two Magazine Racks - *Untitled*
Vestibule Area - *Untitled*

2. Four Columns:

Places to Go
Animals I know & some I don't
Hands Around the World
People I Know

3. Infant Room:

Columns - *Baby Columns*
Border Design - *Untitled*
Two Lamps - *Untitled*

4. Toddler Room:

Bulletin Board Frame - *Untitled*
Window Seats - *Untitled*
Wall Painting - *Untitled*

detail, Animals I know & some I don't

5. Preschool Room:

House Mural - *Where I Live and What's in it*
Window Seats - *Untitled*
Wall Painting - *Untitled*

6. School Age Room:

Stage Curtain - *I Am A Star Theater*
Window Seats - *Untitled*
Wall Painting - *Untitled*
Cupboard edge protectors - *Untitled*

7. Study Area:

Desk - *Seek Knowledge*
Shelves - *Reasons to Read*
Birdhouse Lamp - *Untitled*

8. Rumpus Room:

Lesson Panels - *Untitled*
Kitchen Window Header - *Untitled*
"Exercise" Mirror - *Untitled*

9. Hallway:

Chair - *Hallelujah Friend*
Bench - *Here Sits a Star*
Snake Rail - *Welcome to my World*

10. Directors:

Panel - *Home is Where the Heart is*
Table - *Untitled*

detail, Places to Go

11. Staff Lounge:

Two Tables - *Untitled*