

Sculptor Joshua Tobey moves production to Loveland, boosts 2 foundries

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Justin Miller, a metal finisher at Bronze Services of Loveland, polishes an elk sculpture while working Monday. Artist Joshua Tobey has recently moved his entire production to two Loveland foundries and has around 63 molds currently in production. He produces an estimated 800 castings per year. His business has allowed Bronze Services to add three employees and go from 32-hour workweeks to 40-hour workweeks. V. RICHARD HARO/FOR LOVELAND CONNECTION

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After visiting 15 different foundries across the nation, bronze sculptor and wildlife artist Joshua Tobey moved production of all of his art to Loveland this fall.

"Loveland has some of the best foundries in the country," Tobey said.

Tobey has around 63 molds currently in production in Loveland and produces an estimated 800 castings per year.

The production of Tobey's work will be split between two local foundries, Bronze Services and Art Castings.

Tom O'Gorman, owner of Bronze Services, said his staff has been working 32-hour weeks for the past two years. With the production of Tobey's work, Bronze services has added three new employees to the staff and has gone back to 40-hour weeks, he added.

"It has made us more busy," O'Gorman said. "Him and his wife are great people. They are wonderful to work with."

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Loveland is an attractive community for artists due to local art businesses and services, said Marcie Erion, business development specialist for Loveland's creative sector.

"From an artist standpoint, there are already a lot of existing businesses in place to help create their work and be successful," she said. "Loveland as a community is doing a lot to support its creative sectors."

Erion added that the arts are an attraction for new residents and are an important piece of Loveland's economy. The creative sector produces more than \$100 million in payroll annually, she said.

"He's bringing a lot of production here," Erion said. "That is very important for our local creative businesses."

With six galleries across the country, Tobey said production time is very important. Since moving his production to Loveland, the production turn-around time has decreased from eight months to approximately eight weeks, he said.

In addition to moving the production of his work to Loveland, Tobey is in the process of moving his studio and his residence to the area.

Loveland's proximity to the mountains and wildlife is important to Tobey, who has focused on wildlife sculpture for years.

"I realized I could tell the human story with wildlife, and from that moment on, wildlife became my favorite subject," he said.

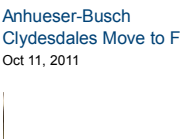
He added that he is looking forward to getting settled in Loveland so he can get back to work in the studio.

"I'm looking forward to the adventure," he said. "I am also looking forward to being around other artists and people in the art world."

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