



TROPHY WHEAT

Mara Strayer, Lawrence, KS
CARNEGIE BUILDING, SOUTH ENTRY

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T**ROPHY WHEAT** is a welded steel structure that's inspired by and conceptually represents a huge electrical tower holding a small plot of wheat on its top. The sculpture conveys the themes of strength, farming, Kansas and humor. The piece is constructed in five "layers," and two "sections" joined together with nuts and bolts, raising and honoring the wheat as a trophy. The artist says the goal with her sculptures is to combine an industrial look with a natural component...hard and soft. "To me, joining those two is unexpected and strangely complimentary."

Strayer holds degrees in graphic and jewelry design from the University of Kansas. "These experiences have taken me down many roads. Currently, they have led me to welding. I am a one-woman shop and making these huge pieces give me so much pride and joy."