

SKYVIEW on 7th
Master Development, LLC

Public Art

Artist Biography
Statement of Inspiration and Portfolio

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Artist Bio

Tyler Shrake is a 27 year old surreal painter and muralist currently living in Portland, Oregon. Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, he moved to the PDX area at the age of 21 to pursue a fine art degree at Portland State University, where he graduated with a BFA with a focus in painting and mural design in 2021. Although he had already been painting for a couple of years, it wasn't until he relocated to the Pacific Northwest that Tyler fully realized his strong love and passion for murals and public art. Creating mostly in acrylic, his work often utilizes strongly saturated color schemes, cosmic backgrounds, and symbolic elements to express the deep connection we all share to the land and each other. With a portfolio that includes mural projects for apartment complexes, music venues, corporate offices, coffee shops, and private homes, Tyler has been developing a strong collection of large scale work over the past few years that exemplifies his dedication to transforming otherwise bland public spaces into inspiring celebrations of art.

Statement of Inspiration

As Portland residents, we are all extremely lucky to be surrounded by some of the most impressive forests in America. Nestled between the Coast and Cascade mountain ranges, Portland is bordered by majestic temperate rainforests that provide the habitat for precious native flora and fauna, such as monumental Douglas fir, western red cedar, the great horned owl, and American beavers. All of this life is of course dependent on the plentiful rains that grace the western half of the state for the majority of the year, as evidenced by the world famous amount of waterfalls that flow throughout the local mountains, all the way to our breathtaking coasts. So when I learned that the theme for the glass panel design would be water, I knew that I wanted to focus on the iconic forest-lined and waterfall-filled coastline of Oregon. I thought that having the design highlight the abundance of water and trees that we live next to would be a great way to remind people of the beauty that surrounds us, as well as to honor the natural resources that have enabled Portland to become the bustling metropolis that it is today.

I believe that it is especially important for Portlanders to remember how fortunate we are to be surrounded by such extensive biodiversity, for the future health of our environment is unfortunately not a given. The growth of Portland is directly related to decades of unsustainable clear-cut logging, which has decimated a great portion of our old-growth forests. Although the Oregon timber industry has greatly helped Portland economically, if left unchecked, extensive mining of our forests would cause the extinction of dozens of species, spoil natural recreational opportunities, and otherwise lead to the destruction of one of the most beautiful corners of America. Thankfully, there are several conservation agencies working to preserve our natural habitats, such as Portland Audubon, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Cascadia Wetlands. Nevertheless, I still believe that it is important for the general public to not forget how privileged

we are to live next to such amazing wilderness, and creating works of public art that spotlight our natural wonders can serve as a great social tool to help us appreciate the land that we depend on.

This celebration of our local wildlife is perfectly exemplified in a current work of public art that is visible directly south of the site of the proposed building. Under the moniker plasticbirdie, Portland muralist Jeremy Nichols created a large-scale mural in 2022 of local flora and fauna, including Douglas fir, Oregon grape flowers, monarch butterflies, and bumble bees. I believe that my glass panel design would complement Jeremy's mural by further honoring the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest. In addition, the proximity of the proposed building site to Sullivan's Gulch, a geologic ridge that conveniently serves as the I-84 corridor, is another point of inspiration for the tree-lined cliff edge that is dominant in my design.

Another notable aspect of this art proposal is the medium itself in which it will be constructed. Utilizing industrial grade laser engraving techniques, the series of glass panels will be scoured to produce a high definition translation of my original digital design. This technique will provide viewers, both from the inside and outside of the building, with a unique visual experience, as light will still be able to pass through the semi-translucent panels, thus creating an interesting dynamic of light, texture, line, and the illusion of distance. With the design being broken up by a series of intervening panels, one might even get the feeling that they are on a viewing deck from a ship at sea, perhaps looking out through a series of windows at the majestic coastline. In addition, the massive scale of the entire piece will naturally captivate people who happen to walk by. Measuring a little more than 43 feet wide by 9 feet tall, it will be difficult to not be impressed by the grandness of the artistically etched glass panels. With the entire design being so large, it will be especially possible for viewers to get a sense of being immersed in the image, hopefully furthering the potential for people to reflect on the natural beauty that Portland exists within.

Overall, my intention with this design is to enhance the public space of the new development by providing residents, and the public, with a memorable rendering of one of the most treasured aspects of the unique environment that is the Pacific Northwest. I believe that it is especially important for Portland locals to experience works of public art that celebrate our natural diversity, as it is through viewing such creations that we are reminded of the importance of preserving the environment that we're so lucky to live in. This project would benefit all who happen to travel through this part of the Lloyd District, for an innate virtue of public works of art, particularly ones highlighting nature, is that they are accessible to all people, no matter their financial, social, or cultural background. By incorporating this art design into the structure of the building, I hope to embellish SkyView on 7th with a distinctly appealing visual quality that people from all walks of life can connect with and enjoy for many years to come.

- Tyler Shrake

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tyler Shrake". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tyler" being more prominent and the last name "Shrake" following in a similar style.

Tyler Shrake

Mural Portfolio



Cellar Door Coffee House - 2020



Taylor Electric Garage - 2020



MW8 Apartments - 2021



Cloverlane Mercantile and Event Center - 2021



The Courts Skatepark (Portland State University) - 2021



Brainium Studios - 2022



Antisdel Farms - 2022



Brainium Studios - 2023



Henjyoji Shingon Buddhist Temple (Mockup) - 2023