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Resurrection 40 Sculpture Debuts at Chaminade

Creve Coeur, MO, April 16, 2009 - Chaminade College Preparatory School presents Resurrection: 40, a free standing sculpture constructed from 40 analog televisions that have been donated by the Chaminade community. This sculpture was constructed, designed, and produced by Joe Poon, Chaminade Fine Arts teacher, local area contemporary artist and sculptor, and is located on Chaminade's campus near our north side varsity soccer fields.

In this 10 foot high sculpture, televisions are stacked and secured to each other and display video and edited footage from a local area landfill. The purpose of this sculpture is to educate those in the community about the hazards of putting analog tv's at the curbside and the dangers of having tv's dumped at landfills due to the fact that they can seriously harm the environment with the lead and mercury that is so prevalent in these older tv's. The entire sculpture is an interpretation of the experience of today's throwaway society. In a lot of ways, the recycling of these tv's to be used in a sculpture, is a sort of resurrection of the tv's and a reinterpretation of where these tv's are headed. The irony is that the footage is of a location and destination that the artist hopes they don't end up.

The sculpture features footage of large compactor bulldozers that compress and run across new layers of garbage and waste at a local area landfill and includes a soundtrack which features Gustav Mahler's Symphony no. 2 in c minor, also known as the "Resurrection" Symphony. This orchestral piece, performed by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, is the emotional backbone for the piece. In Mahler's music, a hero laments over the death of a friend and questions the meaning of his own life; his belief in God, and the pain and suffering one endures. Ultimately, by the end of the Mahler piece, the hero has "re-found" his faith in life and in his spirituality and finds new meaning in art, music, nature, and life. Another video track displays a rolling loop of the words from Friedrich

Gottlieb Klopstock's resurrection hymn, *Die Auferstehung*, which serve as the lyrics to the optimistic and triumphant choral ending of Mahler's symphony. Each t.v. in a way, is a representation of the human condition or experience, having its own history and struggles. Rather than being thrown away, the artist has creatively resurrected the purpose of these tv's and brought life to them before final rest.

Mr. Poon used as much recycled material as possible, including drainage pipes, thrown out wooden pallets, and of course, the televisions. He tried to create a sculpture that reflects the scale in which we are a disposable culture and society. According to Poon, "The sculpture does not serve as a criticism to landfills or how that industry deals with the rest of society's waste. In fact, during the making and planning of this piece, I have come to learn more and more about how landfills generate gas energy for the surrounding local area schools, businesses and community and how different techniques in the structuring of a landfill lend itself to faster breakdown of the chemicals and materials in it and the difficulty in which landfills have to deal with so many issues and concerns."

On May 16, the sculpture will be moved off Chaminade campus and reassembled at the Luminary Center for the Arts (on Kingshighway) located in the old Holy Innocents Convent for the opening of the *Writing with Light* show. Ultimately, when the sculpture will no longer be exhibited, all forty of the televisions will be taken to a proper recycling center to be disposed of properly.

Resurrection: 40 is dedicated to those who have felt discarded or made obsolete in life and who have struggled with the darkest pains of human existence. Pain is inevitable, but suffering is not.

To schedule a visit to see the sculpture, please contact Mr. Joe Poon via email: jpoon@chaminade-stl.com

Chaminade College Preparatory School is a Catholic day and resident school for boys, grades 6-12, sponsored by the Marianist Province of the United States. Located on 55 acres in suburban St. Louis, college credit courses are offered in all major subject areas. Extensive co-curricular activities complement 16 varsity sports.