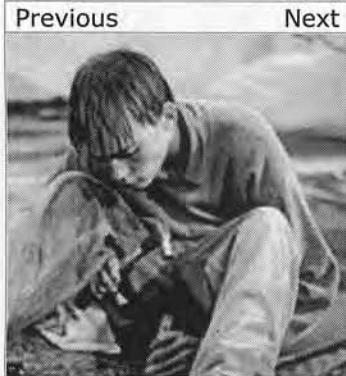


Jackson to unveil 'Tiger Spot' today

By Stephanie Williams, Staff Writer. Posted October 12, 2001

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Jenny Kowalewski/Staff
Photographer

Rock Bridge High School sophomore James Cary pounds small tiles into the ground as part of the new tiger mosaic located near the north entrance of Ellis Library. The project, which took two years to complete, will be unveiled today.

The white tent that has stood in front of Ellis Library for the past few months will be removed today at 4 p.m., revealing the result of two years of extensive work.

MU master's of fine arts graduate Paul Jackson was inspired by his own circular watercolor image of a tiger's face to create the "Tiger Spot," a 30-foot diameter mosaic made up of nearly 1.5 tons of genuine Italian glass.

"The initial concept was brought up about two years ago," said Peter Jackson, one of the major contributors to the project and the artist's brother. "It was totally conceptualized by Paul."

The mosaic has taken thousands of hours of work to complete. Hundreds of students from around the community, Columbia residents and MU faculty have contributed to the painstaking process of laying the glass tiles. Each of the 201 2-foot-by-2-foot squares that constitute

the mosaic are made up of nearly 1,800 tiles no larger than 1 inch in length. Each square took about 15 hours to complete.

"I've been here almost all day," senior Megan Boyer said.

Boyer, an art education major, has put much time into helping complete the project during the past few weeks.

"It takes up a good part of my schedule," she said. "But you're doing something that's going to be around for thousands of years. It's not just a project."

Peter also said that the "sheer enormity" of the project makes it worthwhile.

"I've put my life on hold to help," he said. "I think we all have. The past couple weeks have just been a whirlwind."

Nancy Moen, spokeswoman for the College of Arts and Science, agrees that this project has become an important part of the MU and Columbia communities during the past months.

"The most interesting thing about the project is that it has become such a public piece of art," Moen said. "There has been so much community participation. It will become another landmark on campus."

Peter said he sees the "Tiger Spot" as a defining image of the campus.

"This is going to establish the character of Mizzou," he says. "It screams Mizzou. It will broaden the minds of all the students here. This is the face of campus."

The unveiling will include speeches by Chancellor Richard Wallace, Lori Holden, wife of Gov. Bob Holden, and others involved in the project. Paul

Jackson will formally present the mosaic to the community.

Moen expressed Paul's hope that the "Tiger Spot" will become a gathering place on campus, a place for students to share and create memories.

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