

Outdoor Sculptures on Campus



Manuel Izquierdo “Iberian Venus”

Installed in: September 1975, dedication ceremony October 1976

Location: New Grove, near the New Physical Education Building.

Native Spaniard from Madrid, Manuel Izquierdo, arrived in the United States in 1940 where he then attended the Museum Art School in Portland. His design, now located in the New Grove, was part of a larger design collection consisting of abstract sculptures which were designed specifically with Western’s campus in mind. Iberian Venus is constructed of concrete made from marble sand, giving it a white exterior finish color. Surrounding the sculpture is a reflection pond extending roughly three feet from the base of the sculpture, and then surrounded by a cement ring continuing the reflection pond. The construction of this piece took nearly two years to be completed once it had been commissioned by the student body. The funding for this work had been commissioned by the Associated Students of OCE which had been available from other budgeted university activities, as well as from some of the Senate’s special projects allotment funds.

The reception of this piece appeared to be controversial from research presented in Lamron over the two year construction period. “He (Dr. Dan Cannon) feels that regardless of whether we like the work or not, ‘debate will occur,’ and that is why students are here at this institution.” (Lamron October 14, 1976) “The ASOCE Senate had earlier expressed dissatisfaction with the statue, apparently based on the opinion of some that the statue did not conform to the original model that was approved by committee when the contract was signed.”

Funding provided by Associated Students of OCE and the OCE Senate.