

zodiac

sculpture series by Sebastián

Bellingham - Summer 2010

photo essay by Mark Ellis Walker

The twelve zodiacological-themed sculptures (with two of similar style but not part of the series) which jazzed up the blocks around the new “Lightcatcher” building of the Whatcom Museum of History and Art, from April 2010 to the end of August, were created in recent years by Chihuahuan artist Sebastián (Enrique Carbajal González) and brought to Bellingham by the efforts of the Sculpture Northwest association.

When I read in August 2010 that these sculptures were only a temporary installation in downtown Bellingham, I felt an urgent need to document their “moment” here. Places that are temporarily transformed have additional mystique, both to those who are present to see the alternate version in person and to others who learn of them afterward, and photography is crucial to providing a glimpse to the latter of what the former experienced.

Although they had no particular relevance to their settings, nor indeed to Bellingham itself, I enjoyed seeing them here. Some were fairly straight-ahead, literal embodiments of zodiacological signs, albeit in stylized geometric forms which are Sebastián’s hallmark, while others - notably “Sagitario” - required a more thoughtful assessment to see what aspect of the zodiacological sign was represented in his interpretation.



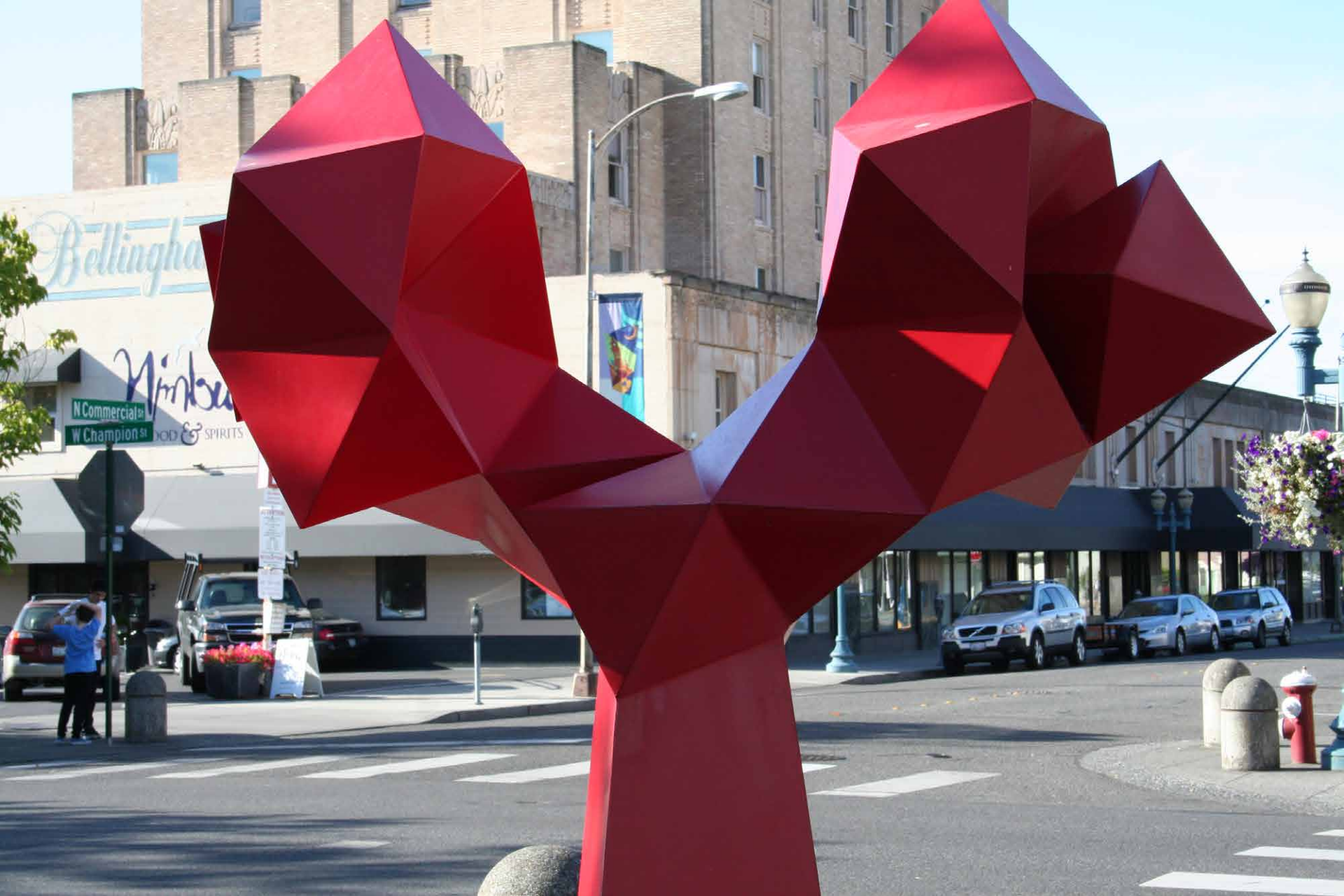
The placement of these sculptures ranged from Commanding to Compromised, but it was significant (if not immediately obvious) that from the position of any one of these sculptures you could see at least one of its fellows. That’s part of the appeal of series artworks, to me: knowing there’s a pattern, you are drawn by curiosity to see the whole set...and visually compelled too, in this case, to explore the adjacent streets for more.

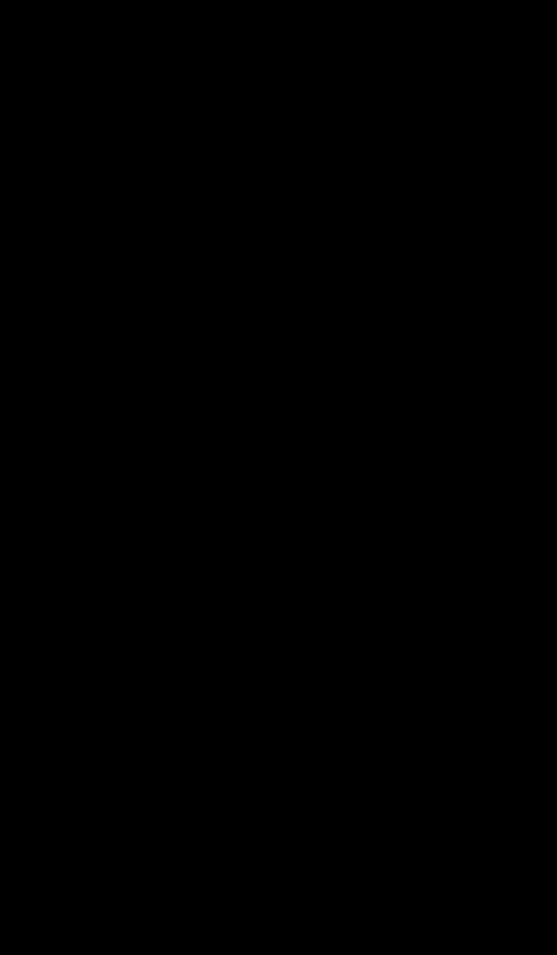
In this gallery of photographs, I hope to show how these strong, vibrant, and very clever sculptures appeared, both in their own immediate focus and in the context of downtown Bellingham as it was at the time.



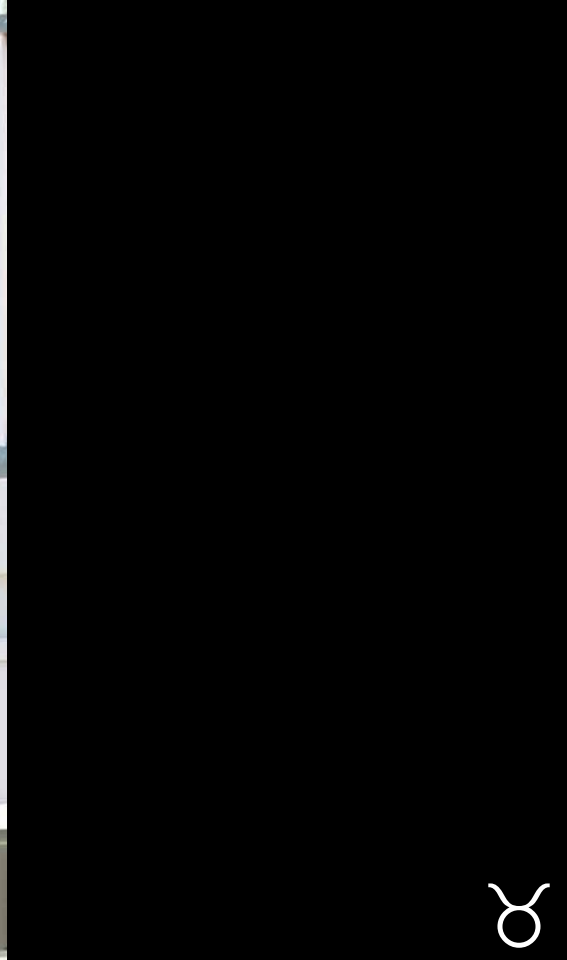
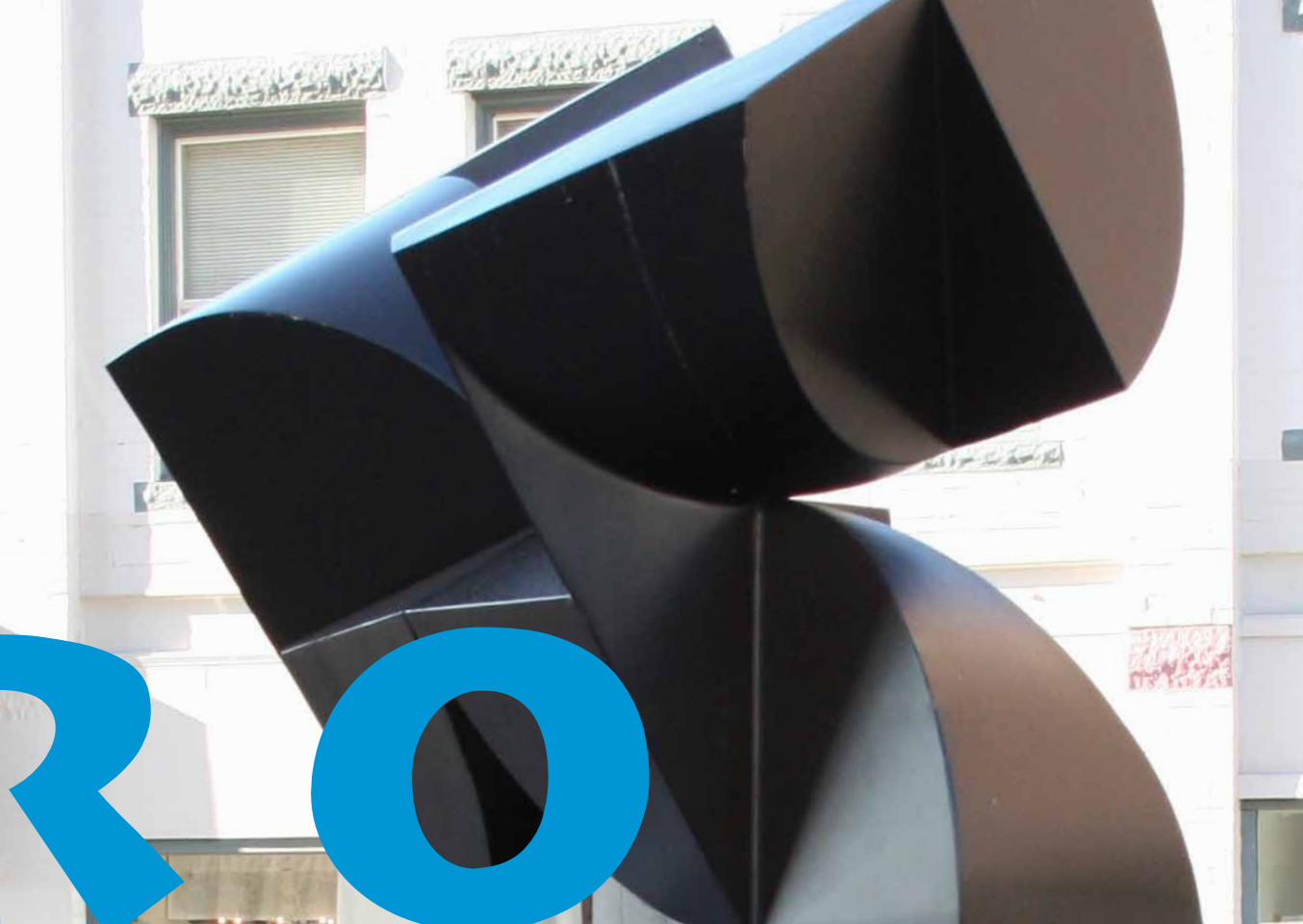
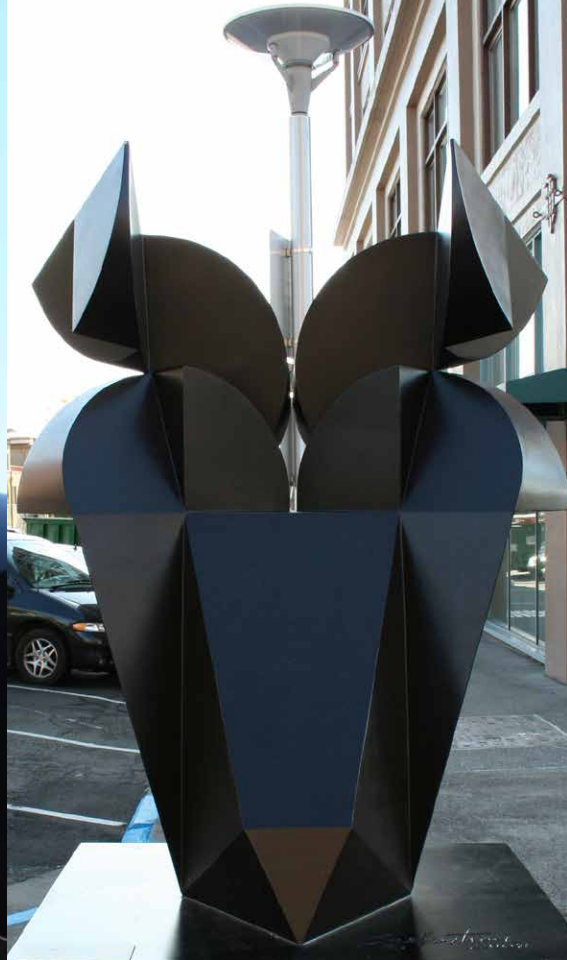
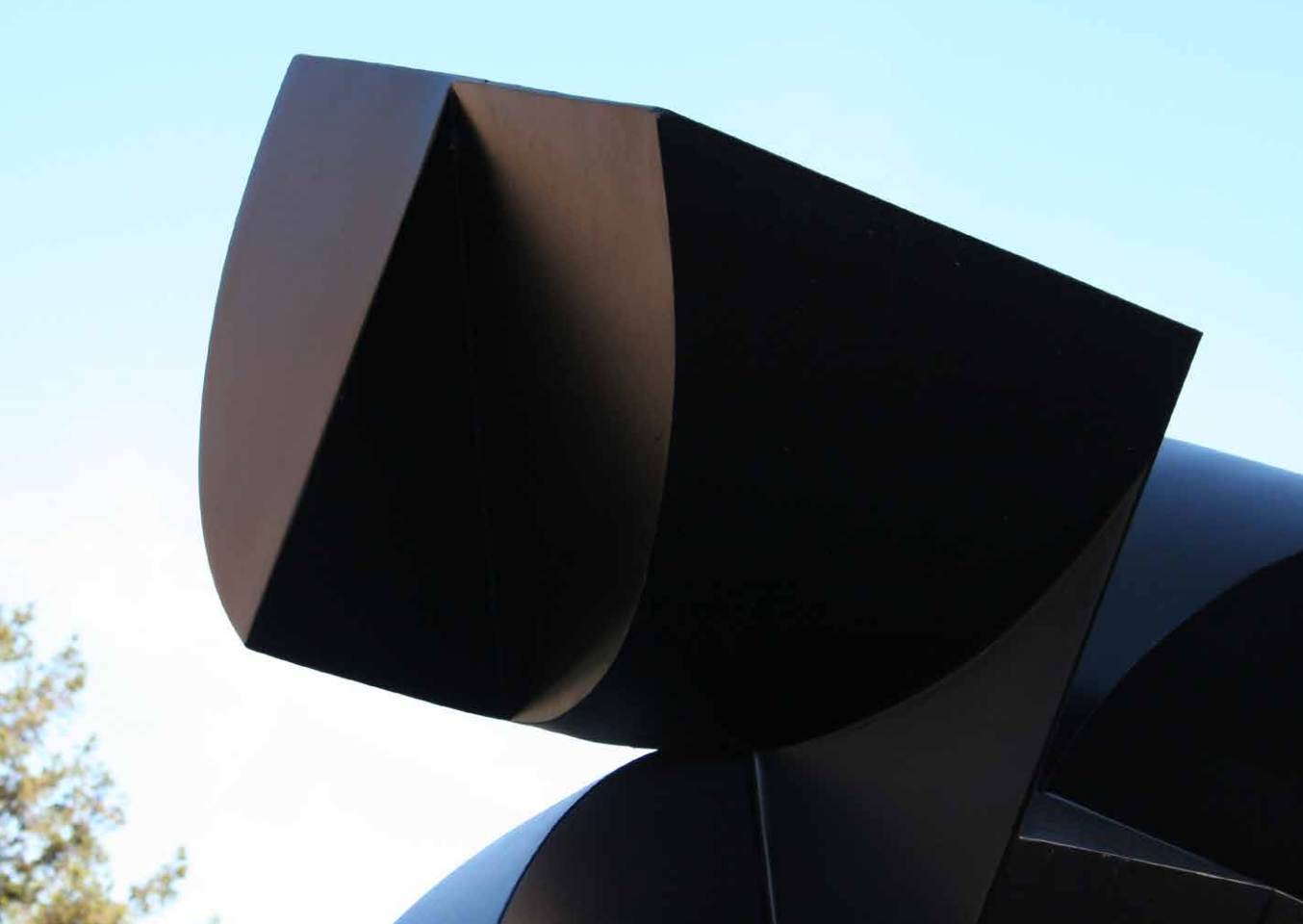


ARTS





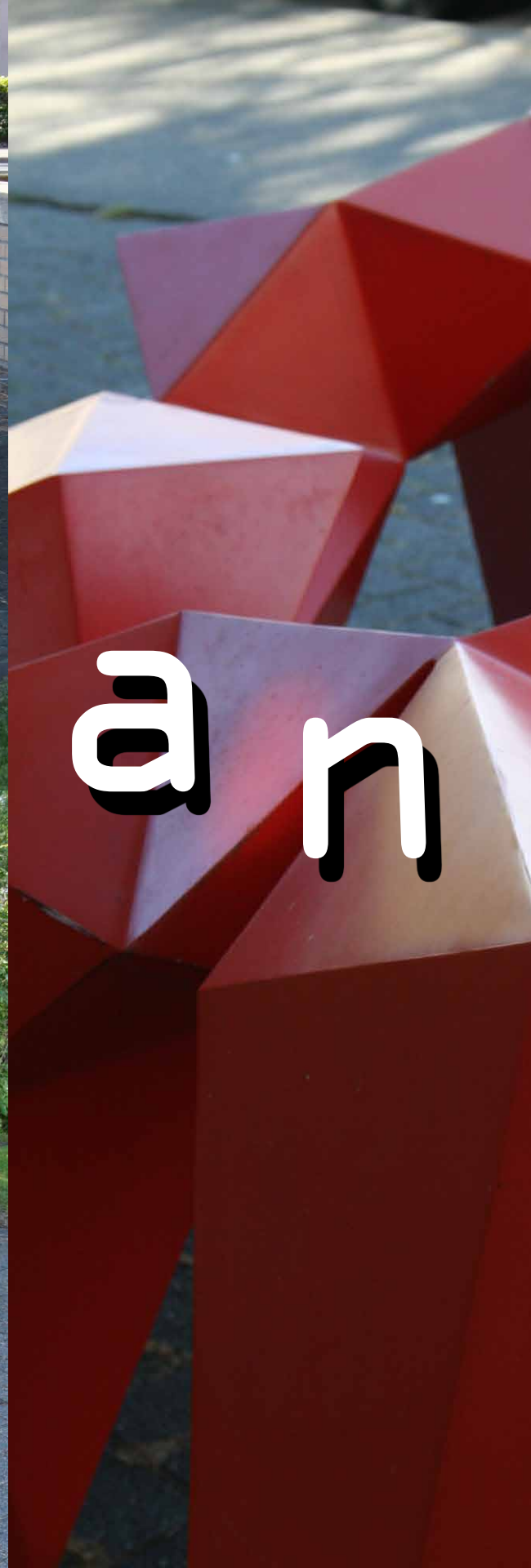
TAU





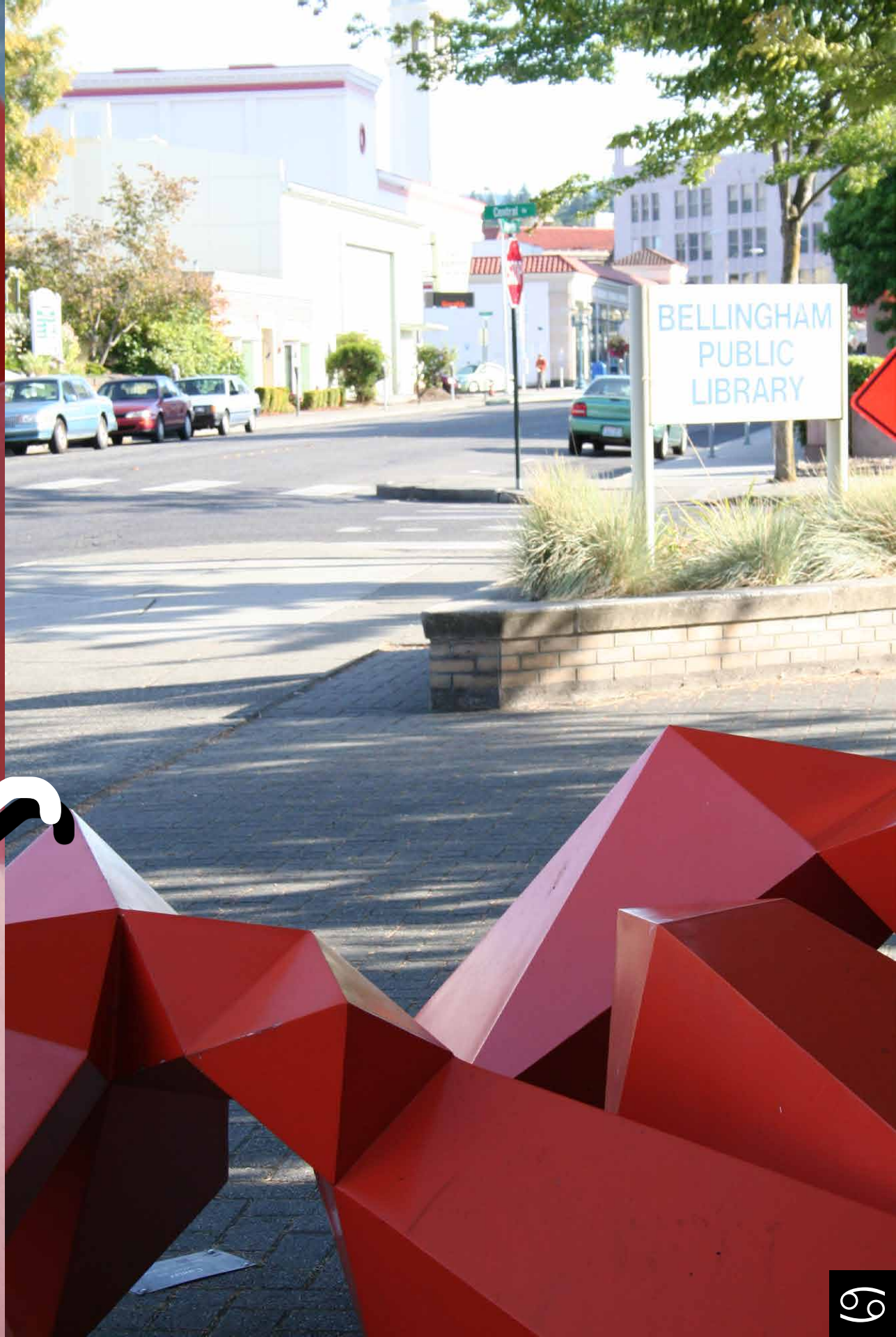
Gemini





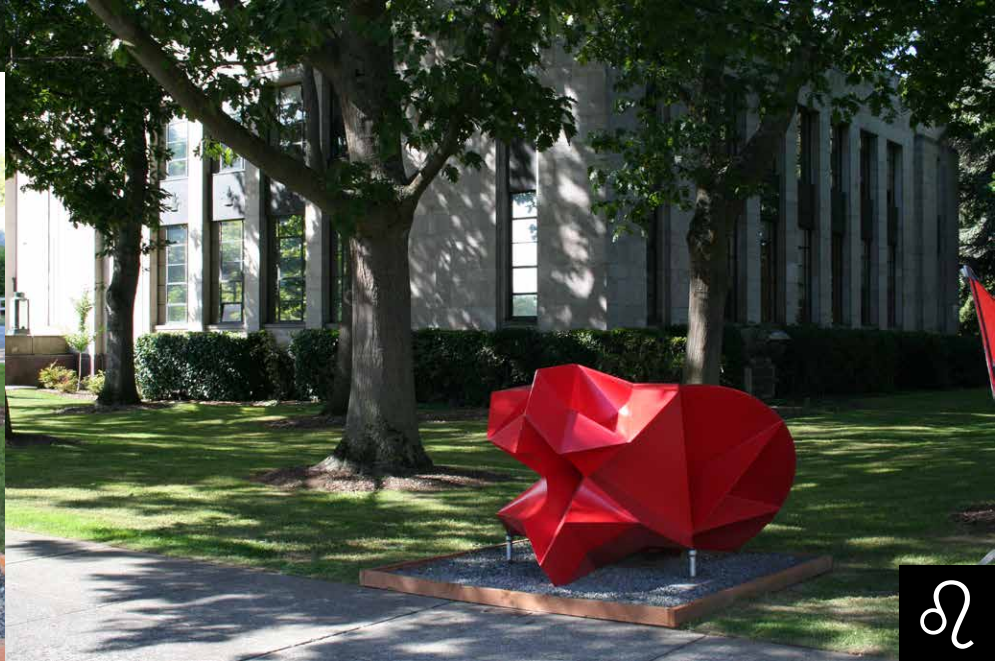
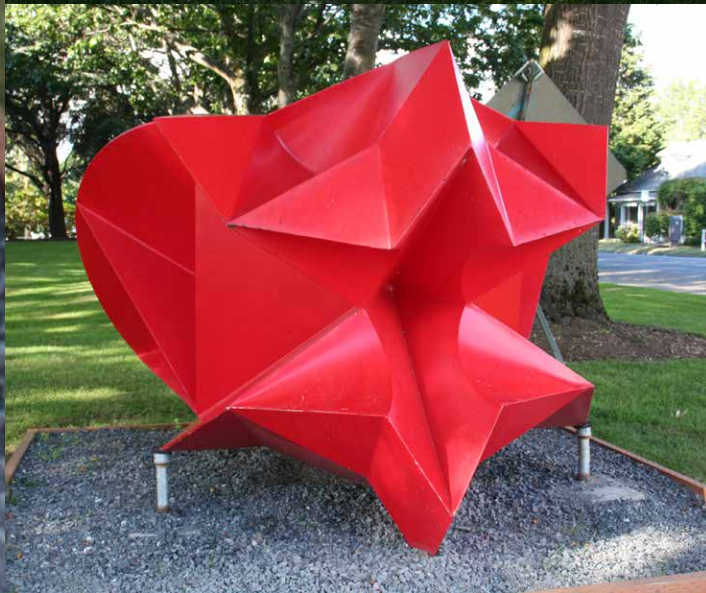
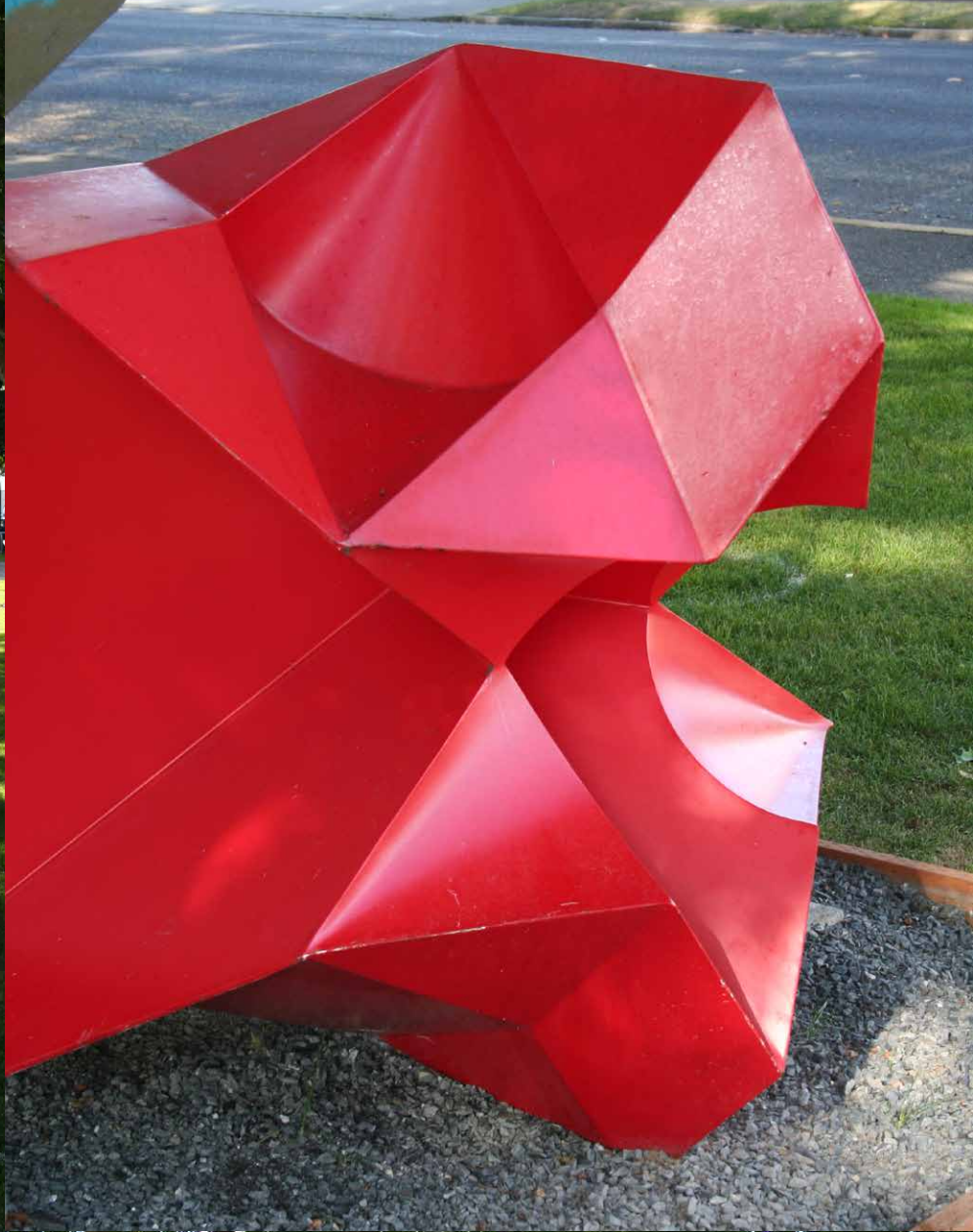
Can

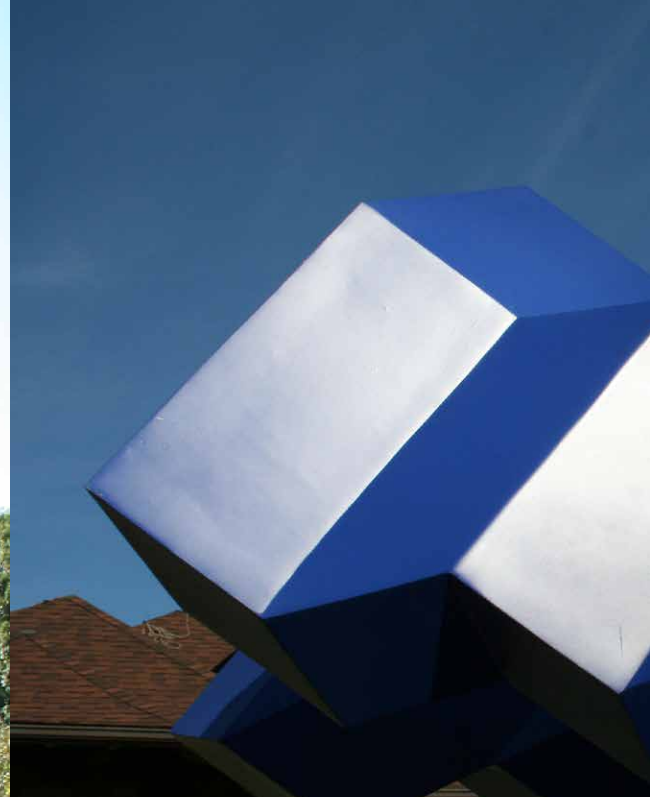
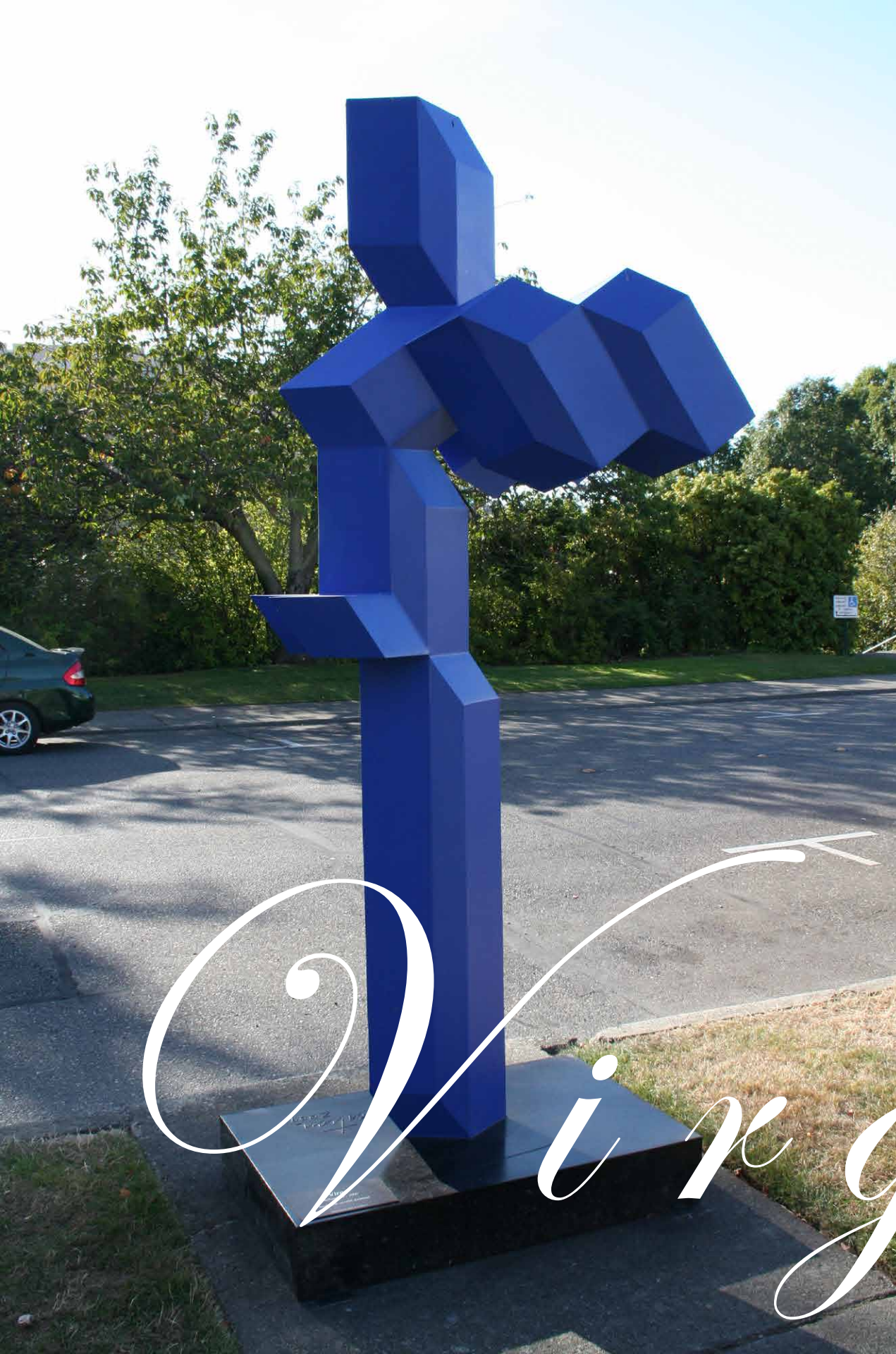
er

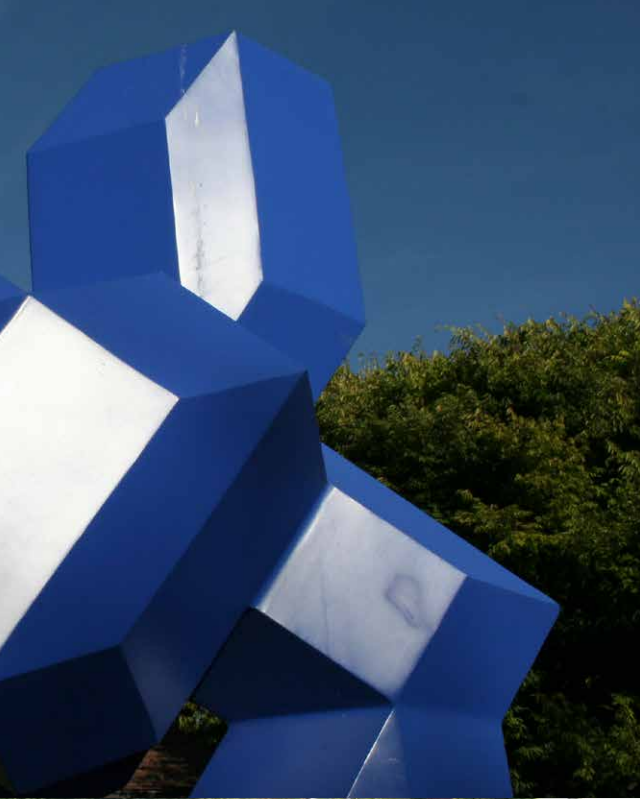




LEO









LIBRA

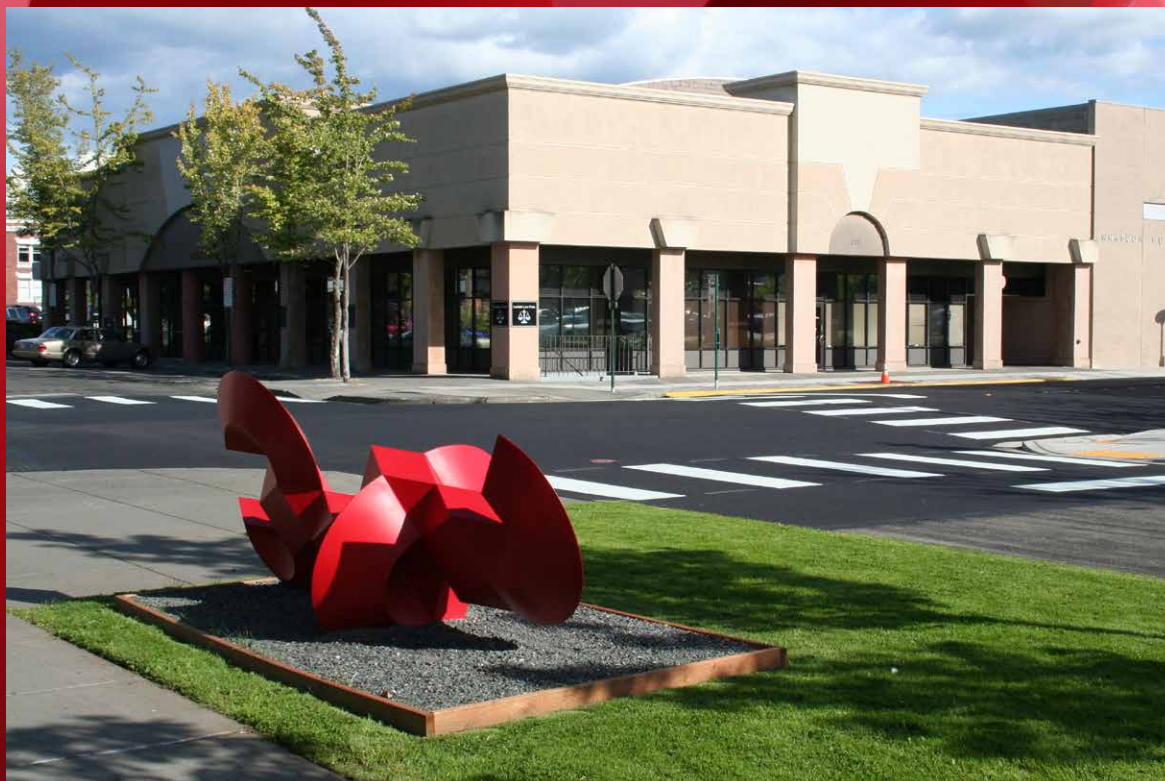


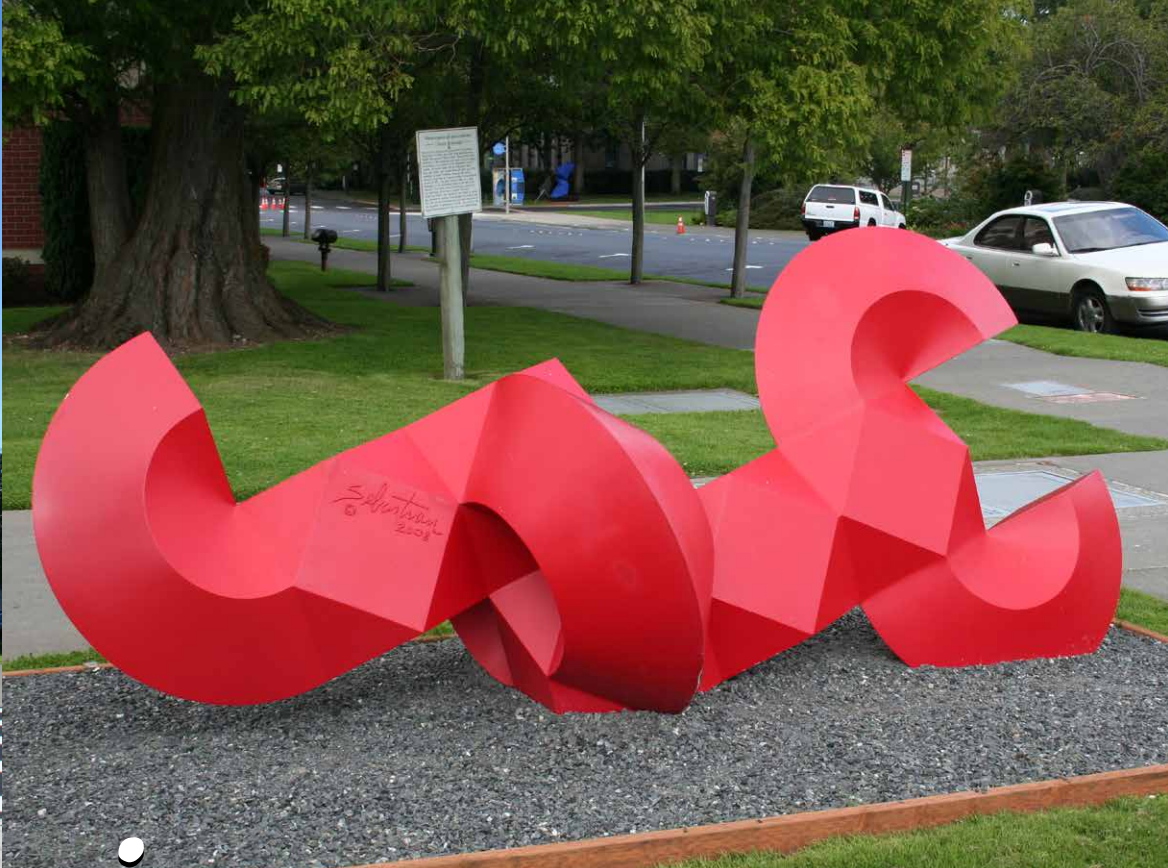
Escorpion



Escorpion

Es







TARIO





(APRIL)



FORNIO

Carlotta Capikorn
1980
100% steel, 100% painted
100% outdoor sculpture
100% outdoor sculpture

A C

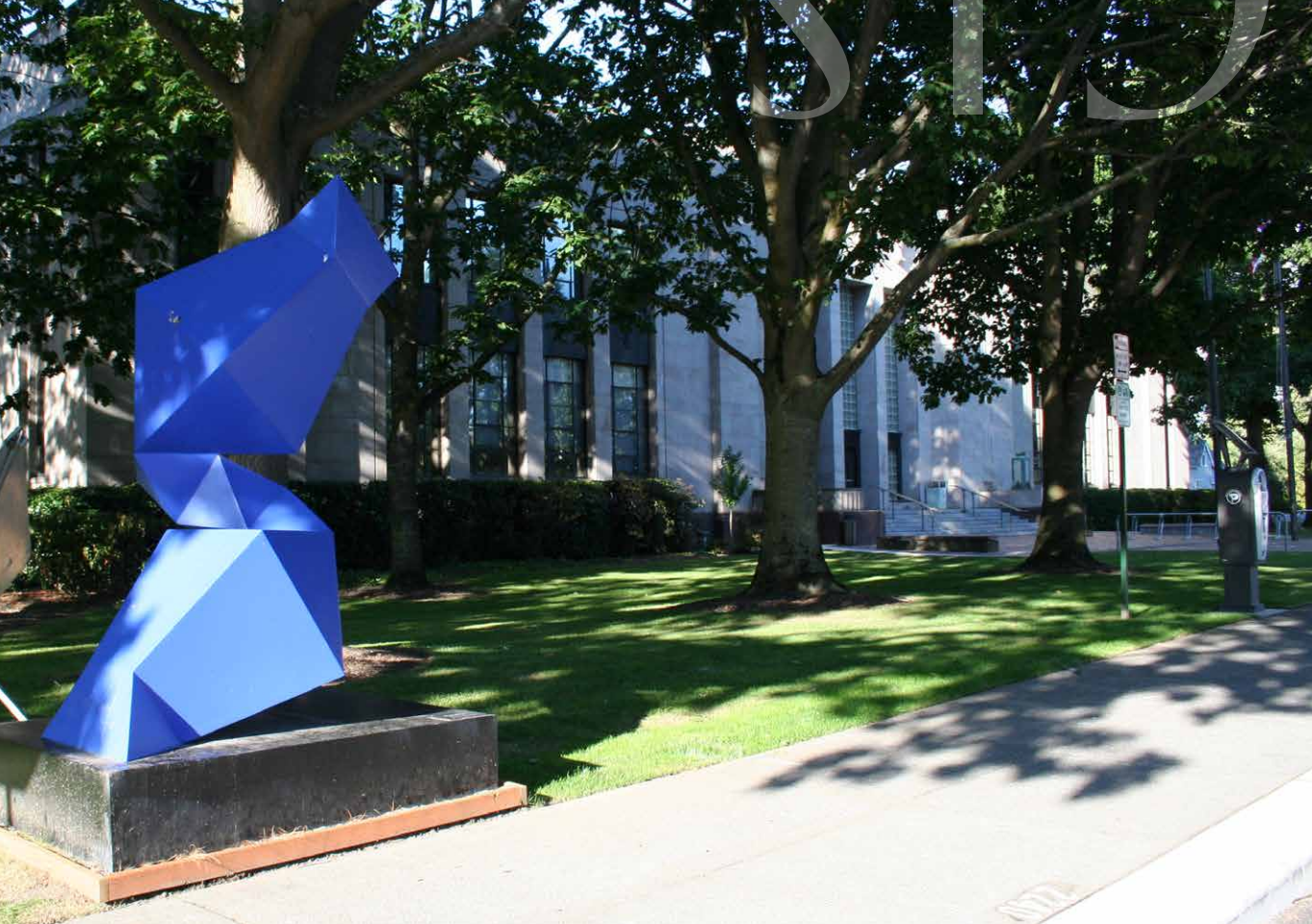
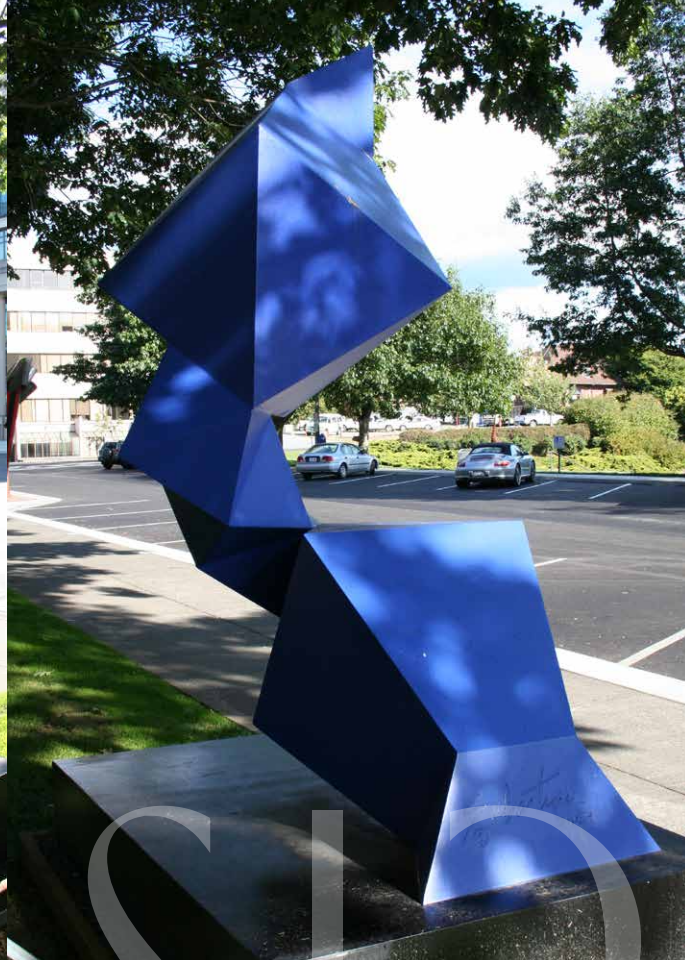
U

A

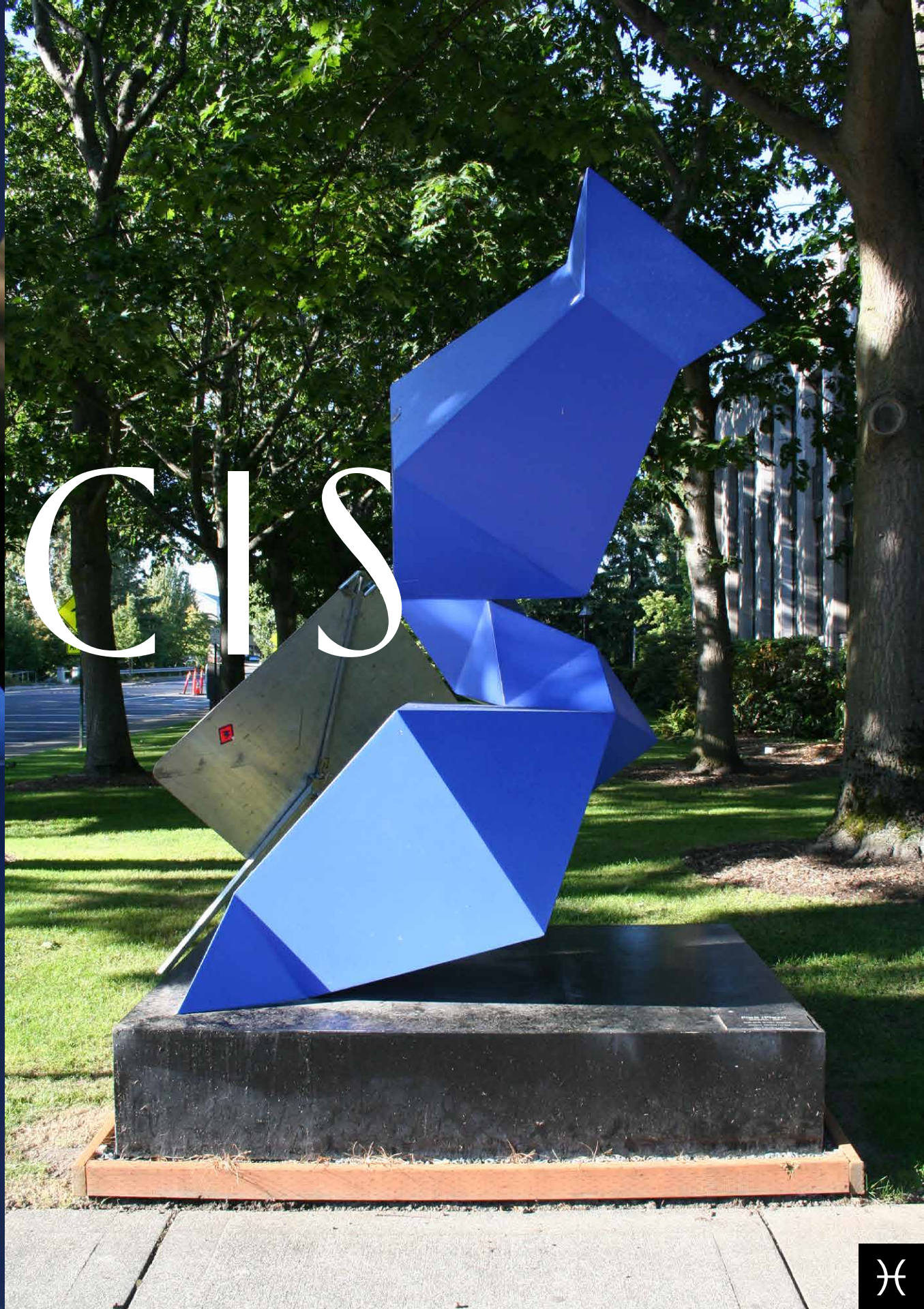


W R I O





PISCIS



+

Roseta



+

Esfera





SEBASTIAN IN BELLINGHAM

- 1. Libra** Sponsored by M.A. Rikard Charitable Trust
Located at front of Lightcatcher, at the northeast corner of Grand and Flora.
- 2. Escorpion**
Proposed site located on grass, at the northwest corner of Central and Grand.
- 3. Piscis** Sponsored by Printing For You
Located on City Hall Lawn, at the northeast corner of Lottie and Grand.
- 4. Leo** Sponsored by M.A. Rikard Charitable Trust
Located on City Hall Lawn, at the northwest corner of Lottie and Commercial.
- 5. Sagitario** Sponsored by BellinghamART
Located on Library lawn, at the southwest corner of Lottie and Commercial.
- 6. Virgo**
Located across from Library, on sidewalk on the east side of Commercial.
- 7. Cancer**
Located on Library plaza, at the northeast corner of Central and Commercial.
- 8. Acuario** Sponsored by M.A. Rikard Charitable Trust
Proposed site located on sidewalk along Commercial, adjacent to shops.
- 9. Aries** Sponsored by Washington State Hispanic Commission
Located on the southeast corner of Commercial and Champion.
- 10. Roseta** Sponsored by Jim Nichols, A&B Machine
Located on the southwest corner of Commercial and Champion.
- 11. Gemini** Sponsored by Consulate General of México, Vancouver, BC
Located on the southwest corner of Magnolia and Champion.
- 12. Tauro** Sponsored by Ken and Kathy Hertz and family
Located on the southwest corner of Bay and Champion.
- 13. Esfera**
Located on grass, just south of Whatcom Museum at the Old City Hall.
- 14. Capricornio** Sponsored by the Markel Charitable Trust
Located on the sidewalk, in front of the Syre Education Center.

