



Carla Occaso/Times Argus

Newark artist Martin McGowan with his horse sculpture in late July – a few weeks before shipping it to its new owner in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

'Iron horse' finds home in Colorado

By Carla Occaso

TIMES ARGUS STAFF

NEWARK – The steel horse sculptor of Newark strikes again.

Sculptor Martin McGowan recently received word that his latest large-scale horse statue made it safely to "Wildhorse Marketplace," an upscale shopping plaza in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

This news came as a relief for McGowan, a part-time art teacher at Lyndon State College and multigenerational Vermonter, who has been working on the sculpture for years before finding a buyer. He worked on the horse in between his job at the college and other odd jobs he took on to support his family.

This horse is his fifth in a series, and all have been purchased by private collectors or developers in California, Philadelphia and Colorado. Of the five, this is the second steel steed created by the Pennsylvania Academy of Art grad to wind up in public view in Colorado.

The first was a giant running mare purchased by a Colorado developer in 1999 to greet homeowners at "Iron Horse Homes," a gated community in Grand Junction, Colo. It was there in 2004 the mare caught the eye of Nancy Kramer, a Steamboat Springs, Colo., city council member

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who also sits on the local arts board.

With one foot on the council and the other on the arts board, Kramer knew when developer Whitney O. Ward needed a sculpture for his "Wild Horse Marketplace," and she also knew where to get it. Ward's project is an old-west style shopping plaza with several shops and a multi-screen movie theater.

During the process of gaining city council approval to build "Wildhorse Marketplace," Kramer introduced Ward to McGowan's work to complete the western feel of the development. McGowan was happy to comply, having just such a horse sculpture already in progress at his studio.

Weeks after sending off his fifth steel steed sculpture to "Wildhorse Marketplace" in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

McGowan has already started creating his sixth. This one will be even bigger and better, according to his wife, Trollheim Soapworks proprietor Michael Noer.

It seems once McGowan creates these feisty fillies he can't keep them home. He manages to make these animals appear light and powerful, even though they are made with heavy dense material.

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McGowan is the son of Lyndon State College art professor Dorian McGowan and his wife, Kari McGowan.

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