

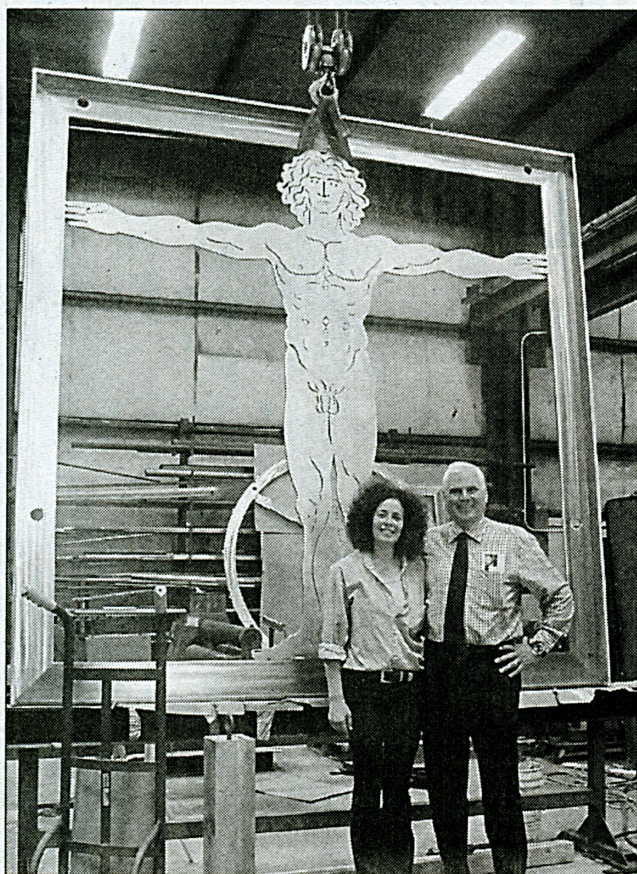
Redding artist Babette Bloch sculpts 16-foot Vitruvian Man

A 16-foot high, three-dimensional interpretation of Leonardo da Vinci's "Vitruvian Man" may not be the first thing visitors to the Shelton Corporate Park would expect to see. However, this iconic masterpiece fits in perfectly with the campus' sculpture park and other first-rate amenities implemented by real estate developer R.D. "Bob" Scinto.

The creation of Redding sculptor Babette Bloch's "Vitruvian Man" set to be unveiled in August has been six years in the making. However, Mr. Scinto's admiration for da Vinci began at a very young age. "I believe art is the spiritual guide of our lives," he said. "In creating the 'Vitruvian Man', Leonardo da Vinci connects the ethereal world with science and technology."

At the onset of the project, Mr. Scinto had a keen vision for the monument but also understood how difficult it would be to reinterpret da Vinci's two-dimensional illustration as a three-dimensional public installation. After soliciting proposed models from various international artists, Mr. Scinto selected Babette Bloch.

A Redding artist, with sculptures throughout the United States and Europe, Ms. Bloch utilizes laser and water-cutting technology to create heavy-gauge stainless steel sculptures. Her interpretation of "Vitruvian Man" demonstrates an aesthetically pleasing interplay between time-honored Western European art history and modern industrial engineering and contemporary sensibilities. By grinding her signature etchings into the sculpture surface using hand-held power tools, Ms. Bloch evokes an illusion of depth and a fluidity



Sculptor Babette Bloch and Bob Scinto at Ram Specialty Welding in front of a section of her monumental "Vitruvian Man" sculpture.

of movement.

"Working on historical projects and actualizing my drawings into stainless steel sculptures has been incredibly exciting and gratifying," Ms. Bloch said. "Creating my sculptural interpretation of da Vinci's Vitruvian Man drawing has been a dream project, combining my love of engineering and art while exploring Leonardo da Vinci's multi-faceted brilliance."

During his 37-year career, Mr. Scinto has created thousands of jobs for workers throughout the state. "I'm delighted to once again contribute to Connecticut's job growth and to stimulate the local economy," he said.

While developing Shelton's Corporate Park and high-rise condominium

"The Renaissance," Mr. Scinto has included design amenities such as sculptures, gardens and fountains placed throughout the properties. "My job is to be a partner to my tenants," Mr. Scinto explained. "If I can elevate their experience and that of their business clients, then I have done my job. Art is the spiritual expression of the human spirit and I've always been inspired by the Renaissance."

Da Vinci's "Vitruvian Man," based upon the writings of Roman architect Vitruvius, has become synonymous with ideals of symmetry and proportion.

For more information about Ms. Bloch, go to babettebloch.com and email bbsculpt@gmail.com