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Sculpture Rises by Wellness/Recreation Center, Northern Iowa Today, Summer 2000

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The thirty-third addition to the university’s public art program was installed this summer outside the Wellness/Recreation Center. The sculpture, “Stage Set for a Film, #1” is the first Dennis Oppenheim sculpture commissioned in the Midwest.

Oppenheim is a world-renowned artist whose outdoor sculptures grace sites in Australia, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Spain, and Olympic Park in Seoul, South Korea. Oppenheim was born in Electric City, Washington in 1938, and in 1965 received a bachelor of fine arts degree from the School of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, Cal. He received a master of fine arts degree from Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cal., also in 1965. He lives and works in New York City.

“Stage Set for a Film, #1” was commissioned by the UNI Art and Architecture Committee, which is made up of faculty, staff and students from a variety of colleges and departments across the campus. UNI was the first university in the state to incorporate artwork as part of building construction.

The cost of the sculpture was approximately $90,000. One-half of one percent of the budget for any new, or significantly renovated, building is devoted to the purchase of art. This formula was devised by former UNI President William Maucker and became law for all state buildings in Iowa in 1979.

“Stage Set for a Film, #1” will be dedicated Friday, Sept. 21. The event will include tours of the Wellness/Recreation Center, a lecture by Oppenheim and a reception. For more information, contact Rachel Flint, UNI Gallery of Art acting director, at (319) 273-6134.