

## = Soaring Stones =

Soaring Stones , also known as Rouse Rocks , Soaring Rocks , and Stones on Sticks , is a 1990 granite @-@ and @-@ steel sculpture by John T. Young . It was first installed in the Transit Mall of Portland , Oregon , and was later sited as Soaring Stones # 4 at Whitman College in Walla Walla , Washington . The sculpture was commissioned for \$ 100 @,@ 000 to replace a fountain that was removed during construction of Pioneer Place .

During the construction of the MAX Light Rail in 2006 , it was removed and returned to Young , who then donated the work to Whitman College . The sculpture is intended to represent the " interface between man and nature " ; it features six irregular Washington granite rock forms installed in a row , in order of ascending height . The work inspired David Glenn , professor of music at Whitman College , to compose a piano quintet piece titled " Sculpture Garden for Piano Quintet " for the 2009 Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival .

## = = History = =

John T. Young 's Soaring Stones was commissioned in 1989 for \$ 100 @,@ 000 as a gift to city residents by Pioneer Place , Ltd . , an affiliate of Rouse @-@ Portland , Inc . , to replace a fountain that was removed during construction of the Pioneer Place mall . The sculpture was completed and installed at Southwest 5th Street between Taylor Street and Yamhill Street in downtown Portland 's Transit Mall in 1990 . The sculpture was surveyed and deemed as " treatment needed " by the Smithsonian 's " Save Outdoor Sculpture ! " program in October 1993 , and was administered by Rouse @-@ Portland , Inc . , Pioneer Place , Ltd. at that time .

In 2006 , the sculpture was removed and returned to its owner due to construction of the MAX Light Rail . The University of Washington 's Architectural Commission considered moving the work to a " very unique site " because of its design and size . Young was a professor of art at the institution . In 2007 , Young donated the work to Whitman College in Walla Walla , Washington , where it was installed outside Cordiner Hall as Soaring Stones # 4 .

## = = Description = =

According to Young , Soaring Stones represents the " interface between man and nature " . It consists of six irregularly shaped pieces of Washington granite that were quarried from the Cascade Range , displayed in a row in ascending height . While installed in Portland , the first stone was sunk into the pavement . The rest were set on polished stainless steel pedestals , the tallest of which reached 11 @.@ 5 ft ( 3 @.@ 5 m ) . Elevated boulders had recessed lighting . The Smithsonian Institution described the sculpture as " reminiscent of the Cascade Mountain Range from which the media came " , and categorized it as abstract and allegorical of nature . Alongside the sculpture was a plaque that said , " SOARING STONES " / BY JOHN T. YOUNG , SEATTLE , WA / © 1990 / SPONSORED BY PIONEER PLACE LTD . Installed at the Whitman College campus , Soaring Stones # 4 spans 150 ft ( 46 m ) and the highest of its rocks reaches 12 ft 4 in ( 3 @.@ 76 m ) tall .

## = = Reception = =

In 1990 , The Seattle Times said Soaring Stones ' ascending pieces looked " as if they were taking off into flight ... [ r ] ather like Young 's career " . The sculpture was included in at least one published walking tour of Portland and in another by Whitman College about art on the campus . David Glenn , professor of music at Whitman College , took inspiration from Soaring Stones # 4 and other art pieces on the campus for his composition " Sculpture Garden for Piano Quintet " , a piano quintet commissioned for the opening concert of the 2009 Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival . Glenn based his work on a September 2008 walk through the campus ; he used Young 's sculpture as inspiration for the quintet 's final movement . He said of the sculpture 's influence :

Since there are six boulders used in the sculpture , I based this movement in the time signature of 6

/ 4 , with a sub @-@ division of four and two ( four on pedestals ; two on ground ) . I also used a six @-@ note melodic theme that rises six times , descends six times and then rises again six times . The rising and falling represent different perspectives the viewer of the sculpture can have ? either looking from right to left or left to right .