

= Allow Me ( Portland , Oregon ) =

Allow Me , also known as Umbrella Man , is an iconic 1983 bronze sculpture by John Seward Johnson II , located in Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland , Oregon , United States . The sculpture , one of seven Allow Me casts , was donated anonymously to the City of Portland in 1984 for display in the Square . It depicts a life @-@ sized man dressed in a business suit , hailing a cab and holding an umbrella . Constructed from bronze , aluminum and stainless steel , the sculpture stands six feet , ten inches tall and weighs 460 pounds . The sculpture is one of many works of art generated by the city 's Percent for Art program , and is considered part of the City of Portland and Multnomah County Public Art Collection courtesy of the Regional Arts & Culture Council .

After ten years , in 1995 , the sculpture was removed from its pedestal and transferred to California for its first major restoration . To maintain its shine , Allow Me receives cold wax coatings every year . It is a popular tourist attraction and local landmark which serves as a reference point for gatherings , or political rallies . Allow Me has received a positive reception and is renowned for its realistic appearance ; the ' Umbrella Man ' has been called the " most photographed man in Portland " , and serves as a symbol of the city and its residents .

= = Description and history = =

The Portland sculpture is one of seven casts of John Seward Johnson II 's Allow Me . It was designed and completed by Johnson in 1983 and is constructed from bronze , aluminum and stainless steel . In 1984 , the sculpture was donated anonymously , but in the name of Harry H. Schwartz , to the City of Portland and dedicated for display at Pioneer Courthouse Square . This square is one of the most popular and often visited squares in the state of Oregon . In 2004 the square was named the fourth best public square in the world by New York 's Project for Public Spaces . Allow Me is situated on the south side of the Square just above the amphitheatre and is seen as welcoming visitors there . The sculpture depicts a life @-@ sized man dressed in a business suit , " hurrying across the square " and hailing a cab . He holds an umbrella , which some people have interpreted as an offering . He wears a watch and a rhubarb @-@ colored tie ; his index finger points towards the Meier & Frank Building , adjacent to the Square . Allow Me measures 82 " x 45 " x 50 " and weighs 460 pounds . The sculpture is part of the City of Portland and Multnomah County Public Art Collection courtesy of the Regional Arts & Culture Council . It is one of many works of art generated by Portland 's Percent for Art program .

In July 1995 , the sculpture was removed from its pedestal and shipped to Stellar Artworks in Van Nuys , California for cleaning and restoration . It received a glassbead peening to remove the effects of birds , human hands , pollution and precipitation , plus a coat of incralac , a lacquer @-@ based acrylic resin coating . The restoration was funded by an anonymous donor and involved Art Work Fine Art Services , Industrial Craters & Packers , O 'Neill Transfer Co . , Smith Masonry Contractors and the Regional Arts & Culture Council . This marked the sculpture 's first restoration since 1985 . Allow Me receives cold wax coatings each year to maintain its shine .

The sculpture has been used as a reference point for gatherings . There have been instances when the sculpture was used to make a statement or act as a prop . In 2011 , Occupy Portland demonstrators outfitted Allow Me with a peace sign , a Guy Fawkes mask and a " We are the 99 % " sign .

= = Reception = =

The Architecture Foundation of Oregon called the sculpture a " popular icon " for Portland . ' cultureNOW ' suggested that the depicted subject could be the " most photographed man in Portland " ; the project described Allow Me as one of the " most recognized and beloved " sculptures in Portland , serving as a symbol of the city for both residents and tourists . Elaine S. Friedman , contributor to The Oregon Encyclopedia , wrote that Allow Me mimics Portland 's pedestrians . In its guide of Portland 's public art and architecture , Moon Publications described the sculpture as being

" so realistic that you 'll look twice " . Another description by Portland Community College asserted that the work is so lifelike that people have attempted to initiate conversation with the ' Umbrella Man ' . Spencer Heinz of The Oregonian wrote that the sculpture " serves for some as a symbol of the civility that frames the city 's incomplete image of itself . "

In 2011 , Sunday Parkways presented spoke cards to donors depicting the sculpture , among four additional cards showing other iconic images of the city . In Willamette Week 's annual " Best of Portland " feature for 2011 , the " Best Portland Tattoo " award went to one resident whose Portland @-@ themed sleeve tattoo included Allow Me , among its other landmarks .