

= Kvinneakt =

Kvinneakt (" female nude " in Norwegian) is an abstract bronze sculpture located on the Transit Mall of downtown Portland , Oregon . Designed and created by Norman J. Taylor between 1973 and 1975 , the work was funded by TriMet and the United States Department of Transportation and was installed on the Transit Mall in 1977 . The following year Kvinneakt appeared in the " Expose Yourself to Art " poster which featured future Mayor of Portland Bud Clark flashing the sculpture . It remained in place until November 2006 when it was removed temporarily during renovation of the Transit Mall and the installation of the MAX Light Rail on the mall .

Originally located on Fifth Avenue , the sculpture was reinstalled on the mall in 2009 at a different location , on SW Sixth Avenue between Alder and Morrison , where it remains . According to TriMet , Kvinneakt is one of 40 public art sculptures in the Transit Mall 's art collection . The sculpture is part of the City of Portland and Multnomah County Public Art Collection courtesy of the Regional Arts & Culture Council and is administered by the City of Portland Metropolitan Arts Commission .

= = History = =

Kvinneakt was designed and created by Norman J. Taylor , a Seattle @-@ based artist and professor of sculpture at the University of Washington , between 1973 and 1975 . The piece is an abstract bronze sculpture depicting a full @-@ length nude woman measuring 71 " x 38 " x 25 " . Kvinneakt was one of 11 sculptures selected for the Portland Transit Mall from more than 500 entries entered in a juried competition . The works were purchased through a budget of \$ 250 @,@ 000 ; Kvinneakt was commissioned at a cost of \$ 6 @,@ 500 . Funding sources for the project included Tri @-@ Met (20 percent) and the United States Department of Transportation (80 percent) . Of the 11 sculptures , only Kvinneakt and Kathleen McCullough 's (née Conchuratt) Cat in Repose were considered " figurative " . Claiming his intention was not to be vulgar , Taylor said : " It 's about grace and motion and a certain beauty and pride in the human figure . That may be sensual , but that 's far different from sex . " According to the Regional Arts & Culture Council , Taylor intended the piece to be " confrontational " ; he admitted , " the worst reaction you could give my work is no reaction . "

Kvinneakt was installed on the newly built Transit Mall in 1977 . The bronze sculpture was sited on SW Fifth Avenue near Washington Street (between Washington and Stark) . In 1978 , Kvinneakt appeared on the " Expose Yourself to Art " poster , which featured future Portland Mayor Bud Clark flashing the nude woman .

In 1981 , about 30 minutes before the start of April Fools ' Day , three men attempted to steal the 250 @-@ pound (110 kg) statue , breaking it free from its pedestal and dragging it towards a waiting car before being spotted by a city worker and fleeing the scene . Damage from the incident included a broken right index finger and other cracks . Repairs cost \$ 3 @,@ 000 and were undertaken by Norman Taylor , who also strengthened the sculpture 's body and its connections to its base . Kvinneakt was reinstalled at Fifth Avenue and Washington six months later , in October 1981 .

The sculpture has served as a stop on walking tours of the city , including the Metropolitan Arts Commission 's 1987 Portland Public Art walking tour and the 2003 Public Art Conference 's walking tour of downtown . On November 7 , 2006 , Kvinneakt was temporarily removed for renovation of the Transit Mall and installation of the MAX Light Rail along the mall . Its removal was supervised by staff of the Regional Arts & Culture Council . During this time Kvinneakt and other removed works were cleaned and refurbished . In September 2009 , the statue was re @-@ sited on SW Sixth Avenue between Alder and Morrison . Representatives from the Regional Arts & Culture Council and the TriMet Public Art Program conducted the unveiling . According to the former organization 's public art manager , the sculpture will likely remain in its current location for as long as 30 years .

There have been other instances when Kvinneakt was used to make a statement or act as a prop . On April Fools ' Day , 1982 , the Portland Rainmakers gathered around the sculpture , issued a proclamation condemning nudity , " even in statues , for viewing by the general public " , and left the

statue covered with a " size 42 @-@ plus " , lacy bra . In 1984 the statue was vandalized with the painted text " Jesus Saves " . In January 1985 , on the day Bud Clark took the oath of office as Mayor of Portland , Kvinneakt was draped anonymously with a sash reading " Congratulations " . In 2007 Tom Burkleaux , founder of New Deal Vodka , posted an image of the sculpture on the company 's website with the woman 's nipples airbrushed out , protesting censorship after the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau deemed the website " offensive " . In 2012 , Century of Action , a project of the Oregon Women 's History Consortium , used the sculpture to promote women 's suffrage by placing a " Votes for Women " sash across her chest as part of the organization 's " Sash Project " .

= = Reception = =

Kvinneakt is often referred to as the most notorious of the sculptures installed in the Transit Mall during the 1970s . In addition to being somewhat controversial because it is a nude , the sculpture has also received mixed reviews as a work of art . In 1981 , Taylor recalled that following the sculpture 's first installation one man told him that " he ought to be ashamed of himself . " In 1985 Jeff Kuechle of The Oregonian listed the work as one of the city 's " worst sculptures " . In the article , Claire Kelly , director of Portland State University 's art and architecture program said , " She 's more than simplistic , she 's absurd . It 's not a piece that belongs on public display . " In contrast , Monk Magazine described the sculpture as " the best @-@ looking girl in Portland " with " her stunning eyes and voluptuous figure " . According to the magazine , Portland is the only city in the United States with a " flasher statue " . The sculpture was included in Kate Chynoweth 's 2003 book , The Best Places to Kiss in the Northwest : A Romantic Travel Guide , as one of Portland 's " romantic highlights " .