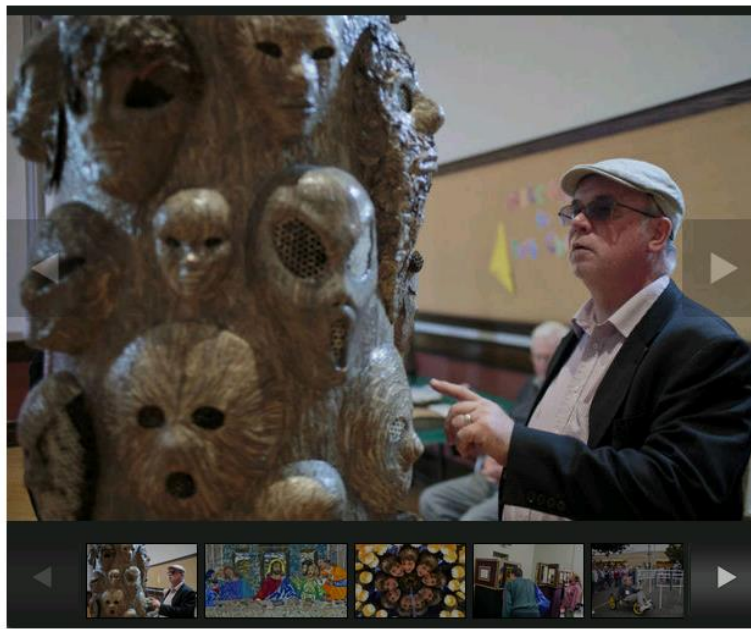




You won't believe some of the ArtPrize art Ripley's Believe It or Not has bought



Ripley's Believe It or Not's Edward Meyer, vice president of archives and exhibits, views 'Face It-You Need Us' created by Kim Froese, during ArtPrize 2014. It's one of the pieces Ripley's has acquired from art shown during ArtPrize in Grand Rapids. (Joel Bissell | MLive.com)

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Ripley's Entertainment has bought enough art at [ArtPrize](#) to start its own ArtPrize.

Believe it or not.

Since the beginning of ArtPrize in 2009, the company has acquired approximately 60 works by ArtPrize artists that now are on display at Ripley's "Odditoriums" around the world.

Related: [ArtPrize is Ripley's Believe It or Not's favorite place to shop for art](#)

Edward Meyer, vice president for Ripley Entertainment, estimates he's purchased some 20,000 items over a 35-year career with the company based in Orlando, Florida.

[ArtPrize](#) is a favorite destination of his. Earlier in October, he spent three days looking at nearly 80 pieces that caught his eye on ArtPrize 2014's website.

"Typically, we narrow it down to about 20 pieces and hope to get about 15 of the 20," he said on Sunday. "I'm confident we'll have a couple more by the end of this week."

Looking for art made out of unusual material is job one.

"It's all about the medium," he said.

Meyer just acquired Stanley Skopek's "[Dawn of Chimes](#)," a sculpture of a dinosaur made from musical instruments, which was on display at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum during ArtPrize 2014. He bought a similar piece last year, "Musical Seahorse & Minions."

"I could buy 31 pieces of his and not get tired of it," Meyer said, referring to Ripley's 31 museums worldwide.

Four years ago, from ArtPrize 2010, he bought a reproduction of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" by Laura Bell, fashioned entirely from lint. The next year he acquired a lint-art version of Michelangelo's "[The Creation of Adam](#)," a piece 8-foot tall, 16-foot wide, entered in ArtPrize 2011 by the artist from Roscommon.

"There are three people in the world doing lint art," he said with a laugh. "And they all know each other."

Related: [Ripley's Believe It or Not! acquires 17 ArtPrize 2012 works](#)

It's also all about the action.

"We're looking for something that moves," he said. "Something that does something."

"[Music Go-Round, The Lithophone Fence](#)" by Tom Kaufmann, of Traverse City, was on display this year at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. It's the second piece he's purchased from Kauffman.

"It's a perfect, interactive sculpture, exactly what we were looking for," he said. "It's appealing to young children, fun and unbelievable. Who knew you could tune granite kitchen counters?"

His very favorite piece at ArtPrize 2014 was "[The Infinity Boxes](#)" by Matt Elson, of Los Angeles, which was in DeVos Place.

A box is headed to a museum installation in upstate New York.

"We're working on a much bigger deal for several more," he said.

Ripley's has 31 "Odditoriums" in 10 countries throughout the world, which keeps Meyer returning to ArtPrize as well as buying additional work from artists he has patronized in the past.

Mike Hyrman's "[Orchids in 3D](#)" by Mike Hyrman of Traverse City, was seen in the JW Marriott hotel.

"This is another one that has the potential for us to buy multiple pieces from him, not just the orchids," Meyer said.