



## World's smallest micro-sculptures on display

By [Tony Ricciuto](#), Niagara Falls Review  
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It's hard to believe something can be so small, but that's why it's on display at Ripley's Believe It or Not odditorium.

It's a collection of rare micro-sculptures so small that many of them sit on the head of a pin or in the eye of a needle.

The micro-sculptures are the work of renowned artist Willard Wigan. The travelling display will be at the Ripley's Believe It or Not museum on Clifton Hill in Niagara Falls until at least Christmas.

Visitors look through microscopes to view the tiny sculptures.

Wigan is an English sculptor and in 2007 he was even honoured by Queen Elizabeth for his services to art.

As one young viewer put it after looking through one of the microscopes, "the guy who made these must have some kind of super power."

The sculptures are so small and delicate they could not be shipped from Florida using a regular courier service for fear something might happen to them along the way. The company had someone drive them to Niagara Falls.

When staff was setting up the display earlier this week, they looked into the one microscope and noticed one of the pieces was missing.

"No one moved. We looked, but the thing is so small, it's like a fibre of carpet. We couldn't find it, so that was \$15,000 gone," said Tim Parker, general manager of Ripley's in Niagara Falls. "These things are very valuable, but we've lost one. With the naked eye you just can't see them."

Ripley's owns the largest collection of Wigan sculptures in the world. Collectors of his work include Prince Charles, Sir Elton John, Mike Tyson and music mogul Simon Cowell. Wigan's works range from popular culture to architecture.

"It's like he must have some kind of super power to work on these," said Josh Leitao, a visitor from Oakville. "I would never be able to do something like this. I think it's pretty cool."

Growing up, Wigan was ridiculed in class by his primary-school teachers and classmates because he had difficulty learning to read. He had dyslexia, but had never been diagnosed. He began sculpting at age five as a way to escape from the world around him.

His work has even been described as the eighth wonder of the world.

Cassandra Durocher, a visitor from Windsor, said "the work is so beautiful, it's just awesome. I couldn't even see it at first. I love it and I can't believe that someone would actually be able to do something like that. It would take an insane amount of patience to do it."

Wigan uses surgical blades and special hand-made tools to work on the sculptures. He has even learned to control his nervous system and slow down his breathing so that he doesn't make even the tiniest movement.

Some of the materials he uses include dust fibres, grains of sand and a spider's cobwebs. To paint his creations, he has even used a hair from a dead housefly.

