

Sculptor's Boston-themed spheres turn heads on High Street

Steve Annear April 16, 2015.



Nothing describes the essence of Boston quite like the Red Sox and the MBTA.

That's why when he was working on an art installation that's now on display downtown, sculptor Lars-Erik Fisk rolled the two iconic symbols into the piece.

As part of an ongoing series he's been working on for the past year, Fisk created two large spheres — one has the characteristics of Fenway Park's Green Monster, and the other looks like a morphed Red Line train — to display in the lobby and front entrance, respectively, at 100 High St.

The Green Monster ball, which lights up and has a working scoreboard, is built from steel, tin, and sheet metal, materials Fisk said are old-fashioned for a project like this, but similar to what make up the actual sign at the ballpark.

"It's a specific detail of the park that appealed to me," he said.

For the Red Line ball, Fisk used polycarbonate to shape the sculpture before he added a windshield, destination arrival sign, and headlights and taillights to the sphere to capture the T's look.

"I strive to make the spheres exactly as they are, and exactly how they occur, in the world. I do that in every possible way except for the form," Fisk said.

The T ball looks like a pod that could fit a single passenger on board, but Fisk said people wouldn't get very far in it.

He said he built the spheres after being contacted by an agent who was seeking public art at the request of the building's owners.

Because he enjoys having his work out in the open, where people can easily see it, he accepted the challenge. Since installing the spheres this week, his artwork has been turning heads.

Fisk said he picked his subject matter because it is immediately recognizable to residents and visitors.

"Fenway was an obvious place to begin because of the city's love of the team, and the sense of pride that is specific to Fenway Park," he said.

As for the MBTA, Fisk said, despite the love-hate relationship riders often have with the public transit agency, its logo is synonymous with the city.

"I didn't quite catch that people loathed the MBTA until the spring," said the artist, who is based in New York City but maintains he's a Red Sox fan.

Fisk has similar work on display at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln.