

## Madison in 100 objects: Lake Monona art



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Artist Timothy Browning has made dinosaurs come out of extinction, the Loch Ness Monster surface in Madison, and Grateful Dead bears dance on ice.

Lake Mendota has its legendary Lady Liberty — the seemingly partially submerged Statue of Liberty replica dating back 35 years. But thanks to Browning, Lake Monona has seen its share of winter art out on the ice.

On the 5.1-square-mile blank canvas of Lake Monona, Browning has “decorated the lake” every winter for 15 years, turning cardboard or plywood into pigs with wings, submarines, penguins and a miniature Eiffel Tower.

Late last year, he drilled holes in the ice to install his public art depiction of moonshine stills accompanied by two “Drinky Winkie” characters, which Browning described as distant relatives of the Oompa Loompas of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” fame.

Browning sites his lake art installations about 50 feet off the shore, visible to the 40,000 drivers who pass the intersection of John Nolen Drive and Broom Street daily as they approach Monona Terrace.

It’s a way of brightening their day during long, cold winters and making those things that are always a little tough a bit more bearable.

Dick Guyot is another Lake Monona winter art enthusiast known for the 9-foot-tall state Capitol replicas he put in the same spot for about 15 years starting in the 1990s.

Country musician and artist Terry Allen famously said that public art is for the birds. Browning’s and Guyot’s has been for the fish.

And for passing motorists, cyclists and pedestrians, it makes winter a tad friendlier.

### What says Madison to you?

We’re describing Madison in 100 objects. The daily series began July 6 and focuses on one object a day that is either unique to Madison or so closely associated with the city that it helps define who we are. Today’s is the 68th installment. Follow along at [go.madison.com/100objects](http://go.madison.com/100objects). Or test your memory with [madison.com](http://madison.com)’s photo memory game.