The D in Epidemic
A new UI research center tackles diabetes.

Art & About
Up close and personal with works of art.

The World’s Memories
Preserving archives—and human rights.
Art & About

Life-enhancing encounters with creative works take place all over the University of Iowa campus.
“My images are objects upon which to reflect and consider who we are and how we got to be like this.”

UI professor emeritus Peter Feldstein offers this explanation of the creative impulse behind one of his latest projects. But, his words also sum up the ambitious goals of the UI’s Art on Campus program, which showcases Feldstein’s Iowa Portraits—photographs of ordinary Iowans etched on immense glass panels—that were recently installed in the new College of Public Health building.

Under this 30-year program, dozens of public works of art are scattered around campus in places where people can enjoy and interact with them. Removed from the formal surroundings of a museum, they invite a meditative moment, a second look, or a caressing touch.

“Great art mesmerizes people,” says UI Museum of Art Director Sean O’Harrow, who chairs the Art on Campus committee. “This program puts that kind of art into people’s daily lives, inviting spontaneous, unplanned learning.”

The UI program is part of the state of Iowa’s Art in Public Buildings initiative, which since 1979 has mandated that all state-funded buildings must set aside half of one percent of total project costs for art. That may not sound like much, but it’s created an incredible public art collection on the UI campus.

In concrete, bronze, paint, mosaics, glass, wood, pottery, and other media, artists express their visions. And the public responds. Outside the football stadium, fans pose for photographs with the bronze statue of Nile Kinnick. At the Campus Wellness and Recreation Center, a steady stream of visitors walks along the 50-foot-long River of Life mosaic that meanders along the floor of the entrance hall. Near the Chemistry Building, people trace the intricate maze carved into the 19-ton granite boulder called Ridge and Furrow.

Here, Iowa Alumni Magazine showcases some of the works of public art that offer such opportunities to pause, to reflect, and to learn what makes us human.

BY TINA OWEN

ABOVE:
Peter Feldstein (American, b.1942)
Iowa Portraits, 2012
College of Public Health Building
Photo-etched images on glass
Peter Feldstein’s portraits of people from throughout the state represent all the Iowans served by the UI College of Public Health, either directly or indirectly. Their quiet beauty offers a human presence to a building devoted to science and medical research.

PREVIOUS PAGES:
Rebecca Ekstrand (American, b.1950)
Calm Waters, 2010
Beckwith Boathouse, Rowing Tank Room
glass-tile mosaic
42’x5’
As artist Rebecca Ekstrand is involved in rowing, she knows the physical demands of this intense sport. With this mosaic, she wanted to lift the spirits of the Hawkeye rowers during long, arduous hours of repetitive practice indoors.
AT LEFT:
Robert Arneson (American, b.1930, d.1992)
*Gateway to Self Realization*, 1992
Eckstein Medical Research Building,
west courtyard
painted bronze, stainless steel
Sculptor Robert Arneson suffered from
cancer, an illness that eventually claimed
his life but did not dim his belief—as
expressed in this work—that each
individual is charged with the responsibility
of self-knowledge.

AT RIGHT:
Lawrence Nowlan (American, b.1965)
*Swimmer*, 2009
Campus Recreation and Wellness Center,
second floor pool entrance
bronze high relief
4’x7’
Here, Lawrence Nowlan immortalizes former
Hawkeye swimmer Jack Sieg, 36BSE [deceased],
who helped coach David Armbruster, 20BA, 31MA
[deceased], refine the butterfly stroke he invented
at the UI. The bronze relief deliberately harkens
back to the 1930s in its style, commemorating
a hero from UI history while inspiring current
student-athletes to further greatness in
competition.
Sharon Roadcap-Quinlivan (American)
*Untitled*, 2002
Karro Athletic Hall of Fame,
east windows
custom-laminated glass panels (16)
135”x96”x1”
Sharon Roadcap-Quinlivan used stylized representations of athletes to indicate the various sports offered at the UI.
ABOVE:
Gary Drostle (British)
*River of Life*, 2010
Campus Recreation and Wellness Center,
main foyer
cut glass mosaic
48”x12’

Working in the ancient tradition of Roman mosaic artists, British artist Gary Drostle created *River of Life*, an intricate, colorful installation that graces the entryway of the UI’s Campus Recreation and Wellness Center.

LEFT: The thousands of mosaic tiles were hand-cut and assembled in London by Drostle and his assistants. Sections of the artwork were then shipped to Iowa for final installation.
ABOVE:
Peter Randall-Page (British, b.1954)
_Ridge and Furrow_, 2011
_Cleary Walkway_
19-ton carved granite boulder
In this work, Peter Randall-Page embraces an organic pattern found in many natural forms—from the structure of the human brain to a tiger’s stripes and to the plowed fields that cover much of Iowa. The granite boulder he used for this work is similar to those deposited in Iowa by prehistoric glaciers.

AT RIGHT:
Elizabeth Catlett (American, b.1915)
_Stepping Out_, 2000
Iowa Memorial Union, Hubbard Commons
bronze
The first African-American MFA student to graduate from the UI, Elizabeth Catlett, 40MFA, chose this work specifically to emphasize the university’s early acceptance of women scholars and focus on racial diversity.