

Unbridled Gratitude by Richard Brubaker, MD

Recognizing the contribution art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Clinic Building was finished in 1914, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* features some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings and grounds on Mayo Clinic campuses.



Richard Brubaker, MD, was born on February 13, 1937, in Macon, Georgia. He studied Chemistry at Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina, and Medicine at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts [personal communication, June 21, 2015]. During his medical training, he was a part-time machinist in a laboratory where he made custom camera parts, which gave him his first taste of metalworking. His professional career at Mayo Clinic in

ophthalmology, during which he made various instruments for his laboratory, allowed him to continue developing these skills. Upon retirement, Dr Brubaker opened an art studio in Oronoco, Minnesota.¹ Although he had no formal art education, his youngest daughter did, and she often worked with him on individual art projects. Currently, Dr Brubaker has several works on public display around the Mayo Clinic and Olmsted Community Hospital campuses, as well as at the local Salvation Army Caring Partners Adult Day Center [personal communication, June 21, 2015].

Unbridled Gratitude was inspired by Dr Brubaker's friendship with Mr Richard Jacobson and in response to Jacobson's generous gift to Mayo Clinic. *Unbridled Gratitude* is an abstract that characterizes physicians and patients linked in the encircling and caring arms of proton beam therapy for cancer. Dr Brubaker used his own style of metal fabrication, as well as the original steel included in the completed Jacobson Building, to create *Unbridled Gratitude*. A stainless steel copy also was individually forged for Mr Jacobson's home in Florida. Its title reflects the deep well of gratitude felt by the artist and by all who have been touched by the Jacobson Building and Mayo Clinic [personal communication, June 24, 2015].



Unbridled Gratitude is located on the lower level of the lobby and patient waiting area of the Jacobson Building, on Mayo Clinic's campus in Rochester, Minnesota, and is a gift from the artist.

Margaret R. Wentz, BA

1. Richard Brubaker Sculpture Biography. <http://richardbrubaker.com/biography.html>. Accessed June 22, 2015.