Phoenix Artists Jay Atherton and Ann Morton Give Hance Park a Creative Facelift

By Claire Lawton
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Margaret T. Hance Park is now the home to public artworks by two staples in the Phoenix art community.

Jay Atherton is an artist and architect whose work -- including installations, exhibitions, public buildings, and private residences -- is all over the country. Atherton installed "Towards Time (130811 11:52)" on Monday at the southern entrance to the park at Moreland and Second streets.

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According to the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, the installation will "celebrate the beauty of the desert by displaying the location of the stars and planets overhead during daylight hours." During the day, celestial bodies will be mapped on the ground with help from perforations in the overhead fabric.

Ann Morton spent almost 30 years in the graphic design industry, which she says is evident in her work, both visually and in her process. She was owner, partner, and principal at Thinking Caps, a longtime Phoenix environmental graphic design firm until 2006, when she left to pursue her MFA at ASU. She now teaches in the fiber department at ASU and Color foundations at Paradise Valley Community College.
On April 13, Morton will invite the public to help her create "Ground Cover." Through the project, Morton hopes to create a 116-by-50 foot "ground cover" made from blankets crocheted, knitted, and quilted by the public. Each blanket will include 28 10-by-10 inch squares. The result will be showcased in a vacant lot in downtown Phoenix in the Fall 2013, before it is disassembled and given to agencies that serve the homeless.

For those interested in knitting, crocheting, and quilting, Morton will be at Hance Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday. Her Knit-In will coincide with Roosevelt Row and ASU Art Museum's Feast of the Street, which you can read more about on Chow Bella.

For more information, check out the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture website.

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