

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Date: 28 February, 2011

From: Mindy Solomon Gallery

Contact: Mindy Solomon @ 727.502.0852 – info@mindysolomon.com

Mindy Solomon Gallery Artist, Phil Epp Garners National Prize.

Newton, Kansas is blue sky country. Just ask Mindy Solomon Gallery artist, Phil Epp!

Newton's newest water tower, featuring artwork by the artist, has been named the national 2010 Water Tank of the Year by Tnemec Company.

The tower's design mimics Newton's Blue Sky Sculpture, named one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Art in 2008. Both the sculpture and artwork for the water tank were created by Kansas artist and designer Phil Epp, who is known for his rural landscapes with expansive skies.

"Both the water tower's exterior design and the sculpture share the artist's signature white clouds set against a bright blue sky," said Doug Hansen, director of Tnemec Water Tank Market. "When you're standing at the sculpture, the water tower is clearly visible. The arched surfaces of the sculpture and the curvature of the tank mural viewed against the surrounding sky create an interesting aesthetic effect that definitely impressed our Tank of the Year judges."

"The City of Newton is honored to receive this award," Mayor Willis Heck said. "We are lucky to have the talents of Phil Epp in Newton, and Blue Sky has become an icon of our community. We hope our water tower design sends the message that Newton is a progressive, creative, first-class community."

The 500,000-gallon pedestal tank replaced a standpipe that was constructed in 1905, according to Tnemec coating consultant Rick Penner.

"Working with Epp, the City negotiated a permanent reproduction of his nearby signature sculpture for use on the water tank," Penner said. "After an approximate scaled model of the new tank was used to lay out the artwork, Epp and the project engineer matched Tnemec colors to recreate the artist's original desired effect. To further enhance the uniqueness of the tank's image, the City installed lighting at the base of the tower."

"The cloud as icon and open sky as subject is universal," Epp said. "A clear, crisp, contemporary depiction of this imagery is my attempt to provoke inspiration and interpretation. The cloud in motion seemed an honest motif for a water tower, declaring its content and justifying its purpose."

The Blue Sky Sculpture was named one of the "8 Wonders of Kansas Art" in 2008 by the Kansas Sampler Foundation, a public nonprofit whose mission is to preserve, sustain, and grow rural culture. The City of Newton also uses the Blue Sky motif on signage in its parks, tourist attractions and entry points.

Mindy Solomon Gallery
124 2nd Ave NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Wednesday - Saturday: 11 am – 5 pm, Sunday & Monday: Closed, Tuesday: By appointment

www.mindysolomon.com - 727.502.0852 - info@mindysolomon.com