

Bringing more light to the Wheat State

Australian artist softens the industrial aesthetic in US city of Salina

by Fred Norwood, *Milling and Grain* magazine

In order to introduce Guido van Helten, an artist from Australia to a collection of invited guests, Travis Young, CEO of Vortex Global, held an event at the Salina, Kansas Arts Center.

The event attracted many people and those assembled, who counted many local business-people amongst their number, heard about the visions that both Messieurs Young and van Helten had planned for the Mural at the Mill.

Inspired by the street artist he had seen while living in the UK and wanting to bring this kind of art to his hometown of Salina, Kansas, following the meeting, the Mural at the Mill was created by Mr van Helten.

After a month spent in Salina, taking pictures and getting to know the city and the people, Mr van Helten settled on a photograph he had taken of children dancing in a circle and holding hands, an image that he believes well represents the unity of the local community.

With financial assistance from John Vanier and his wife Kim, the project was completed in approximately one month. Now found towering over the city, The Mural has attracted much attention from both locals and travellers passing through the city.

With the completion, the once drab aging facility is once again a show place for all to enjoy from the ground up. This project brings both pleasure and pride to the community as a whole and is a trend the people hope will continue to rejuvenate older properties around the city.

The Mural on the one hundred foot high HD Lees flour mill is just one of many completed by Mr van Helten around the world.



