

New piece of art makes home outside SUB

By **GLENYS BOLLS**
STAFF WRITER

A new piece of public art was introduced at the Student Union Building's courtyard Monday morning.

The large, musical stainless steel ball, called "Comma," was the creative vision of artist Po Shu Wang, and has been in the works since 2005.

"We have been wanting to develop the courtyard as a sculpture court," said Cecilia Carter Browne, the public art manager for the Texas Tech system. "We had some funds, so we advertised nationally. We narrowed it down to three finalists who came to present their design proposals."

Wang said his inspiration for the sculpture came from standing at the piece's current site, at the south end of the courtyard.

"I wanted something that related to this place," Wang said. "I saw the sun and the music department, and this was what I came up with."

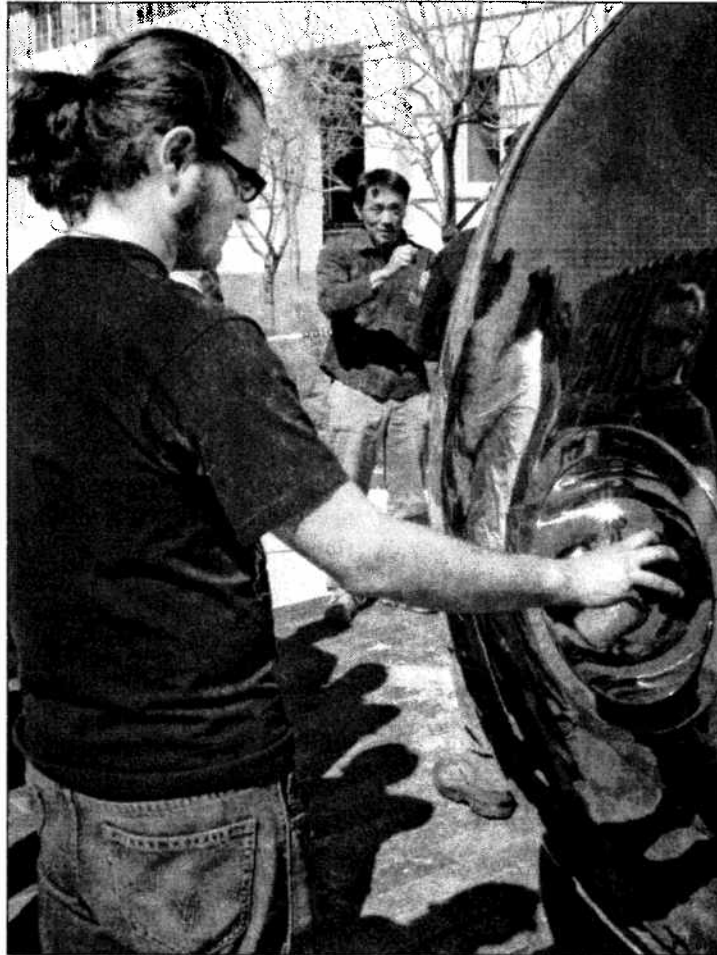
The sun's convection cells put out an extremely low-frequency tone, Wang said. The tone is so low humans cannot hear it, but machines can pick it up. To achieve his desired sculpture, which blends the spherical shape of the sun and its tone, Wang raised the tone up many octaves so humans can hear it.

"We tuned one bell to that tone," Wang said. "The other is a tone that shows natural harmonics."

Because of the bells' tones, the two bells create auditory interference when rung at the same time. The interference sounds like an echo inside the sculpture.

"This combines art and nature," Browne said. "Everything has a certain vibration, from the stars and planets to our DNA, but it's not audible to the human ear. This sculpture invites passers-by to sample the sound of the sun."

The most difficult part of the project was getting the bells toned correctly,



WALTER ROSADO/*The Daily Treador*

BRAIN MARTIN, A senior Sculpting major from Austin, touches one of the bells inside the artwork of Po Shu Wang, located between the Library and the SUB Monday afternoon.

Wang said. To tune the bells properly, Wang had them sent to Holland to be perfected.

"It was truly an international endeavor," said William Cannings, an assistant professor of sculpture. "It's a very handsome object. I'm lured by the reflective surfaces, but the form really relates back to the sound."

The sculpture adds to Tech's impressive public-art collection, Cannings said.

"We have the number one public art collection in the Big 12," he said. "And we're in the top 10 of public art

in the U.S. Just in this one courtyard we have three very different contemporary public artworks."

The courtyard already houses sculptures by Tom Otterness and Terry Allen, but Cannings said Wang's art is different.

"It has sounds, not just form," he said. "Art is about a visceral and tactical response. A very small percentage of people get exposed to contemporary art. This is something the university must keep up and must keep supporting."

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