



Graphic artist puts talent to painting plane

BY MEGAN JURINEK

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LANSING | Maria Braun-Perez wanted her plane to symbolize the painting process.

Braun-Perez, a graphic designer at Porter Hospital, painted "Autoflyer" the Tri Motor plane at Rohn & Haas Company, at 2701 170th St., Lansing.

Braun-Perez said she was contacted by Artist Coordinator Penny Hoekstra to paint a plane.

"I was interested in the project," said Braun-Perez, the Calumet City native. "I think it's cool to have community art sculpture projects placed in open view that the community can interact with."

Braun-Perez was an art instructor through the Northern Indiana Arts Association.

She said she painted to plane to correspond with the sponsor, Rohm & Haas, an automotive paint coating specialist. After approval from the sponsor and the project's committee, Braun-Perez said it took her three weeks to finish the model while working her full-time job.

When the painting was completed, the model received a clear coating that helps bring out the color, she said.

Braun-Perez has participated in other community art projects as well, such as Crown Point's bulldogs models.

"It brings enjoyment to the community," she said. "It's fun to be a part of." For more information:

- * This is story is part of an ongoing series the Times is doing that profiles many of the artists who painted the Tri Motor models.
- * The planes will be on display until October.
- * Tri Motor plane No. 49 is "Autoflyer" at Rohn & Haas, at 2701 170th St.

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