



HIDDEN PVD

Wheel Life



PHOTO BY TONY PACITTI

Posted Friday, April 20, 2018 10:28 am

By Robert Isenberg

You know "Textured Gear," if not by name than certainly by appearance. The sculpture, residing along the Providence River, is the giant silver ring, standing upright on the pavement. One half is rough, like salmon skin, while the other half has jagged, industrial teeth. Pedestrians pass it every day; drivers glimpse it as they coast down South Water Street. It's a familiar fixture, but who put it there?

"Textured Gear" is the creation of **Rob Lorensen**, an artist and educator based in Fall River, Massachusetts. His studio is housed in a massive warehouse, sharing space with Concentric Fabrications, a custom metal company that Lorensen co-owns. Since settling in Massachusetts in 1999, Lorensen has crafted hundreds of large, stainless steel sculptures, most of them incorporating circular shapes.

"Metal itself is so durable and enduring," says Lorensen. "And the circle is a special shape in nature – the sun, the moon, the center of a flower, the iris – so it seemed like a natural shape to utilize in a sculpture."

Lorensen grew up in Chicago and speaks with an affable Midwestern accent, but he's also eloquent about his work, having taught fine art at Bridgewater State University for nearly two decades. As for "Textured Gear," Lorensen didn't create the sculpture for any particular place, but Providence feels like the right spot.

"The piece was conceived before I had any idea where it was going," he recalls. "But now it sort of reflects its original intent, with the industrial skyline behind it. It's a little bit like the history of Providence."

Comments

NO COMMENTS ON THIS STORY | PLEASE LOG IN TO COMMENT BY CLICKING HERE

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU



Carryout Christmas Dinners & Desserts



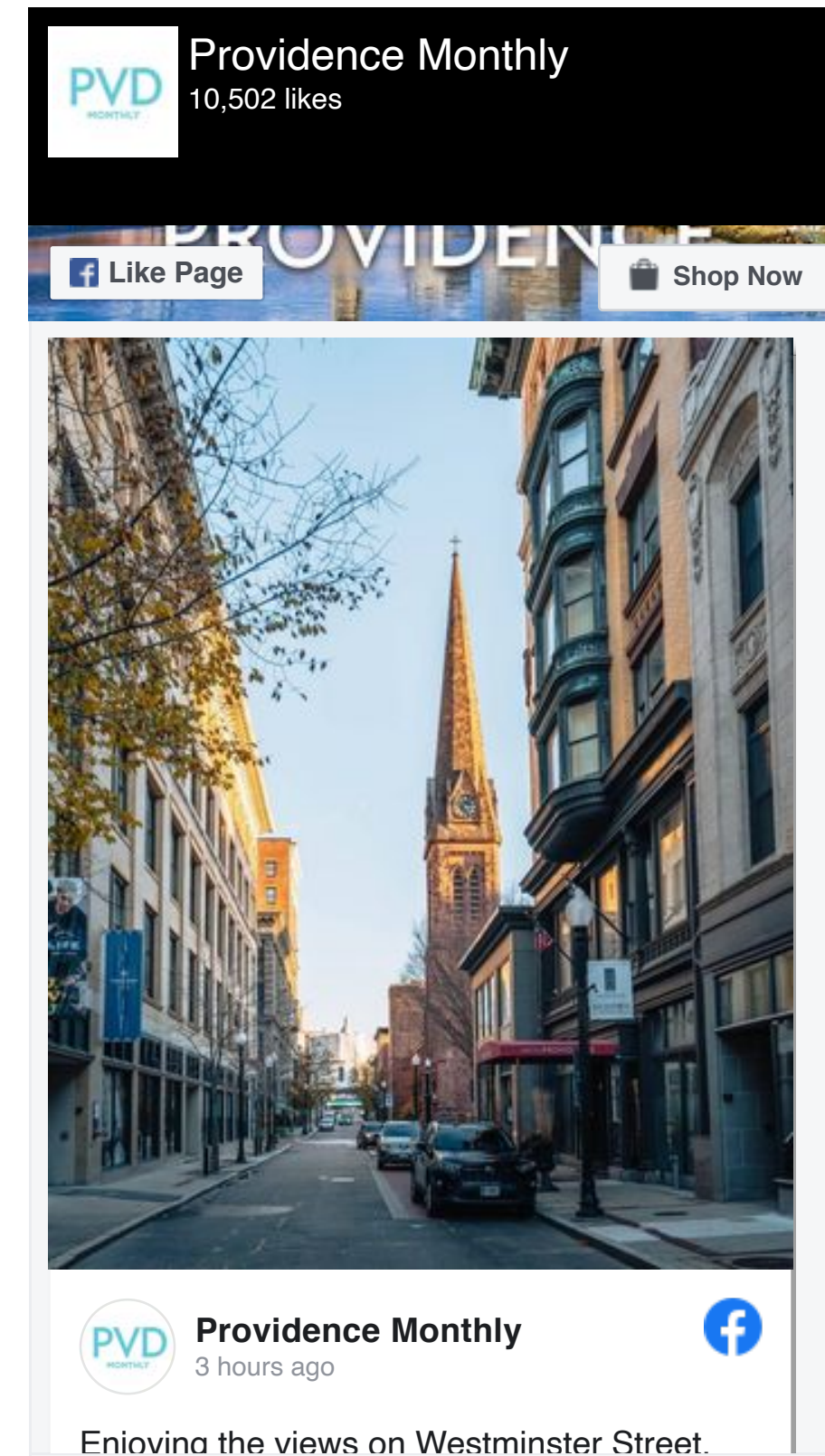
Browse the Foundry Artist Show from Home



Your December Food News: Spanish Tapas, Fed Hill Takeout & Cambodian Street Food



Providence Monthly, December 2020



Doctors for adults on Medicare

[Become a patient](#)

or call (401) 626-4949

(eat), (drink), (play) and (stay) in Rhode Island to get our economy back on course.

LET'S ALL PULL... TOGETHER.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Volunteer today.

Give the Gift of Good Taste

BUY \$100 IN GIFT CARDS. GET A FREE \$20 BONUS CARD.
BUY \$500 IN GIFT CARDS. GET A FREE \$100 GIFT CARD.

PURCHASE IN PERSON OR ONLINE. PROMOTION ENDS 12/31/20. FREE SHIPPING OVER \$50.

www.ChapelGrilleRI.com